Cheating Dixie Landlords Forced to Settle With Negro Tenants By Federal Board

Black Dispatch 1-29-39

Thousands of Sharecroppers Now Receiving Delayed Payments Filched from Them by Overlords

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Both White and Negro Renters Suffer

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—The old Southern custom of exploiting Negro farmers, attempted nowadays under various disguises, has received a terrific setback, through the administration of the Agricultural Adjustment administration of the Department of Agriculture, and because prosecution faced white planters andgery, which will have to be hanfarmers who attempted to defrauddled by the office of the solicitheir Negro tenants and share-tor."

croppers, hundreds of thousands A county in Mississippi is the of dollars have been paid these next example of what was done to defrauded Negro workers in the the Negro sharecroppers and past year. farmers.

Taking a few examples at ran- "With the assistance of the **dom, the state of Alabama, Mis-**county committee and the Mississippi and Georgia, the following sippi state office, $10,272.19 was **cases indicate the common prac-**recovered from the landlord and tice on which the Department of paid to approximately 200 Negro Agriculture cracked down. tenants who should have received

"In one county in Alabama, the these payments when the conlandlords failed to show the in- tracts and applications were auterested tenants on practically all dited and paid, but who had not farms which were operated by been properly shown on these doctenant farmers since the begin- uments. After this investigation ning of the Cotton Acreage Re- was completed, this producer, who duction program in 1934. A rep- had been chairman of the county resentative spent several months committee for several years, sevlast summer and fall in this coun- ered his connection with this comty assisting the state and county mittee." authorities in reworking all appli- **White and Negro Renters Suffer** cations and contracts in connection In Georgia, several cases were with the agricultural adjustment reported and gone into. program from 1934 through 1937. "In this county, 31 complaints

"It was found that 7,681 ten- were investigated and it was ants, share tenants and sharecrop- found that 30 were irregular and pers had not received their pro- involved as many landlords and portionate share of the payments 119 tenants, 85 per cent of whom which had been made to farms on were Negroes; $1,868.47 was colwhich they operated. Of this lected and distributed to the tennumber, 6,803 were Negroes. ants.

$150,000 In One Alabama County In county number two, 95 cases "Approximately $150,000 has were investigated and 80 found to been collected and distributed be irregular, which involved as among the various interested ten- many landlords and 372 tenants, ants to whom these payments 85 per cent of whom were estishould have been made originally. mated to be Negroes; $3,261.20 It is possible that there will be was collected and distributed to cases of fraud, conspiracy or for- the tenants.

"In county number three, six cases have been investigated; 62 tenants were involved, of which three were white and 59 colored. The amount of cash distributed to these tenants was $2,520.60. There are still 25 complaints of tenants on file which involve 19 landlords.

"In county number four, 12 cases have been investigated, 86 tenants being involved, the majority of whom are Negroes. To date, there has been distributed to these tenants, $649.32 in connection with irregularities. There are 46 complaints on file to be investigated, involving 73 landlords.

"In county number five, conditions were unusually bad. The office has investigated the cases of 1,345 tenants, and approximately 85 per cent of these are Negroes. These irregularities are in connection with the same type of payments and involve money in the amount of $5,197.18. Investigations are still being carried on, and brought to a successful conclusion as rapidly as possible."

Interesting indeed is the manner in which these cases are brought to trial or hearing, and the moneys restored to the individual for whom it was originally intended.

Planters Pay Up When Law Threatens

Says one of the chairmen of the committees: "You are familiar with my method of effecting these settlements, which was to notify landlords in advance to appear at the beat headquarters with their records and tenants, to meet the county committee and representatives from my office. In hundreds of cases, the landlord affected satisfactory settlements with their tenants before appearing at the beat headquarters."

Because of the irregularities which have been practiced, officials say it is impossible to estimate the amount of money involved. It runs into figures which reach an astonishing total, yet at the same time the practices of the Southern farmer-owner are being broken down at every possible opportunity and wherever there is evidence of fraud, or guilt is established, the department is not slow in prosecuting and punishing the offenders.

It is thought that because many of the Negro sharecroppers are unable to read and write, white farmers are seeking to take an unfair advantage over them in the matter of payments made by the government. However, through the cooperation of the agents of the department, it is hoped to wipe out the majority of these practices.

Agriculture Is College Man's New Frontier

By ALBON L. HOLSEY

Field Officer Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Such dark and forbidding pictures have been drawn of Southern agricultural conditions that all too frequently many of the brighter aspects are completely obscured.

The pressure, however, upon the colored colleges to meet increasing demands for new outlets for their graduates will eventually lead to a wider exploration into agricultural possibilities.

To the average student, the very suggestion of agriculture or rural life, instantly brings to their minds long hours in the field, drudgery, little or no recreation and an uncertain income which offers no economic security.

Because these conditions do exist, county, State, and national governments are organizing to meet the challenge and to take steps to make farm life more attractive. Thus, in between these agencies and the farmer there is a steadily increasing number of trained workers who are helping to interpret the new objective to the farmer.

Colored colleges are adding courses in rural education in order to provide teachers for replacements and new opportunities in rural schools.

Under the United States Extension Service, there is still another group of these college trained men and women who are touching and influencing the lives of thousands of colored farm families. In addition to about 450 of these county workers there are two colored State leaders in most of the Southern States—a man and a woman—and two colored field supervisors over seven and eight States respectively.

Cites FSA Benefits

The Farm Security Administration with about twenty-three rural housing projects are increasing the number of colored nurses, home economists and farm managers.

In each of the Southern States there are from twenty to thirty-five Jeanes supervisors whose functions are such that they are practically assistant county superintendents of education in charge of colored schools. These highly trained women exercise a high degree of authority in selecting teachers and in curricula making.

$2,000,000 in Sepia Farms

Of the 654,000 colored farm operators in the cotton States, 122,000 are owners of 10,533,682 acres of land valued at $207,932,597. These farms vary in size from two or three acres to as much as 4,000. Most of the owners made small down cash payments or else began as tenants or renters.

Points to Example

What these men have done, others can and are doing. Some years ago, a farmer in Texas started with less than $100.00 and when he died three years ago he left his daughter, who is a Wiley graduate, to manage the 4,000-acre farm and she, with the aid of her

mother, is doing an excellent job.

Contrast this with an offer which was made to a couple of graduates in agriculture to become managers of a large farm on a basis which assured them a larger share of the returns. They said they "didn't care to leave the city."

Aside from the fact that there is great need for finding new employment outlets another reason of equal importance is expressed in the recent report of National Emergency Council to President Roosevelt on Economic conditions in the South. The report says:

"As long as the agricultural worker cannot gain assurance of a continuing existance on the farm. he remains a threat to the job, the wages, and the working conditions of the industrial worker."

The urgent need to help the farmer towards that "assurance" is trained leadership and many of our colleges and universities are properly equipped to help supply that need.

Wallace Heads Tuskegee Rally Program Today

P. O. Davis To Present Cabinet Member At Meeting

Advertiser

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Nov. 10.—(AP)—When Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace comes here tomorrow to address a southeastern rally of negro farmers and educators, he will be greeted by an aged and stooped man who remembers him as "one of the brightest little boys I have ever known." 11-11-39

That man is Dr. George Washington Carver, Tuskegee Institute's world-known negro scientist, once a pupil of Henry A. Wallace's father, before he left Iowa State College to precede his son as secretary of agriculture.

Taking particular interest in the negro student, who never saw his father and once was ransomed as a kidnaped slave for a horse, the elder Wallace made Carver "every welcome always" at home in Ames, Iowa.

As a student of agriculture, Carver often took young Wallace on botany field trips, and he recalled today:

"Everything in nature seemed to interest him and it was a real joy to have him go, as he seemed to be gifted in finding the strange and interesting in nature. Many, many were the questions he asked, and what has always puzzled me was that he did not accept 'I don't know' for an answer.

Himself director of agricultural research and experiment at this world's largest institution of higher learning for negroes, Carver expressed himself on President Roosevelt's choice of Wallace as: "How unusual, and yet how fitting to have him follow his illustrious father (Henry C.) as Secretary of Agriculture."

As to the elder, who helped him along his trail to eminence, Carver said "he taught so much more than his subject (dairying); he taught real life."

Tomorrow Carver will join Dr. B. F. Hubert, president of the Georgia State College at Savannah, in responding to Wallace's address, the subject of which has not yet been announced.

The secretary will motor here from Atlanta with P. O. Davis, director of the Alabama Agricultural Extension Service, who will present him in the Tuskegee ceremonies, opening at noon.

Tuskegee Speaker



HENRY A. WALLACE

WALLACE FLAYS DICTATORSHIP IN TUSKEGEE TALK

Times-Picayune

Negro Farmers, Educators Hear Secretary Demand Economic Liberty

11-12-39

(The Associated Press)

Tuskegee, Ala., Nov. 11.—Asserting that "war abroad makes us all realize what a privilege it is to be in America," Secretary of Agriculture Wallace told a Southeastern rally of negro farmers and educators here today "permanent democracy requires soil-building and security of farm tenure."

New Orleans

Domestic politics was relegated to the background by the secretary, who recently declined himself for a third term for President Roosevelt, but he declared at one point, "Followers of alien 'isms' in this country have had a rude shock."

"They have found," he continued," that all totalitarian governments lead to one and the same thing—the suppression of free speech, private property and individual liberty. The state becomes all-powerful and the average man as helpless as a drop of water in the middle of a river."

In opening his Armistice Day address at Tuskegee Institute, Secretary Wallace spoke of his pleasure in seeing again "my old friend, George Washington Carver," once a pupil of his father at Iowa State college and now the nation's eminent negro scientist.

"The American people want no dictators or dictatorships," Wallace said. "They have democracy in their blood. They want a chance to cuss the government from top to bottom. They want to be able to turn officeholders out, or to keep them in. They don't want to be guinea pigs and they don't like the goose-step.

"Just the same, we cannot preserve democracy simply by disliking dictatorship. The preservation of democracy means that we must keep democracy working effectively. Political freedom means very little if it is not accompanied by economic freedom.

"While the war has increased our faith in democracy, its effects will make it hard to preserve democracy. The United States while still suffering from the 'hangover' of the last war, is now faced with the certainty of a hangover after this war."

Declaring the lot of Southern farmers is "a hard one," the secretary said his department through its multipurpose program is attempting to remedy it, and he expressed belief it has been worth the money spent.

Secretary Wallace Addresses Negro Farmers Of Five States

Advertiser 11-12-39

Send for 2 copies

By ATTICUS MULLIN

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Nov. 11.—The neutrality act may be successful in keeping the United States out of war, according to Secretary Henry Wallace of the United States Department of Agriculture who addressed a regional conference of negro farmers from five Southeastern States here today, "but we are nevertheless certain to be profoundly affected by the war," he said. "Already," he asserted, "the war in Europe has had such an influence and it is only three months old. Our markets, our plans, our emotions and our outlook on many things have been changed by the war."

Talking to the negro farmers and of their agricultural problems, Secretary Wallace said, "We cannot calculate the war's ultimate effects. But we can be certain that they will be unpleasant. A farmer cannot destroy his land without making himself and all who will own that farm poorer. Nations cannot destroy their youth and their wealth without making themselves and the whole world poorer.

"While the war has increased our faith in democracy," he continued, "its effects will make it harder to preserve democracy. The United States, while still suffering from the hangover of the last year is now faced with the certainty of a hangover after this war."

"Can't Escape War's Cost

Secretary Wallace told the negro farmers they could not escape paying, in some way, for the European war as other farmers would have to pay. Whatever temporary advantage might be gained by increased export farm trade, if any, he said, would be lost by the inability of Europe to buy farmers' products after the war.

Dictators and totalitarianism were scored by the secretary. He stressed education as the way to keep out of agricultural troubles in the future.

Logan Hall at the Tuskegee Institute contained more than 5,000 negroes and a sprinkling of white people as President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute called the gathering to order with those present joining in a melody immediately thereafter.

P. O. Davis, Alabama Extension Service director of Auburn, introduced Secretary Wallace who was making his second trip to the Tuskegee Institute in the last five years.

Dr. Carver Heard

After President B. F. Hubert of the Georgia State College for negroes at Savannah responded to Secretary Wallace's speech, Dr. George Washington Carver of the Tuskegee Institute was introduced and he literally stole the show, in the parlance of Hollywood. Dr. Carver, a former slave, knew Secretary Henry Wallace when the latter was a small boy. He knew the secretary's distinguished father and also his grandparents.

Dr. Carver talked along the lines of education as a cure for agricultural and other ills. "But no well informed educator now," he said, "will disagree with me when I say that there must be a change in our education system. We must increase our educational intent and decrease our educational extent. The modern school child gets bowlegged from carrying a heavy turn of books and when he gets through with school he may have wisdom but not understanding. We must increase understanding." 11-12-39

President Patterson introduced Alabama's Commissioner of Agriculture Haygood Paterson and many other guests who were present, white and black. Washington

The principal speaker of the conference day, Secretary Wallace, paid a tribute to the Tuskegee Institute and to its founder, Booker T. Washington, and to Dr. Moton and others. He also spoke in high praise of the work negroes are doing in the triple A and other programs of the Federal Department of Agriculture.

Calls Races Equal

Secretary Wallace pooh-poohed the idea that one racial stock is superior to another. He asserted that the idea of Nordic supremacy (the ideology of the Nazis) is not based upon fact and that Nordics have had their blood mingled with Huns, Turks, Romans, Slavs, Finns and Greeks and with other tribes that have fought and lived over Europe for thousands of years. "Those who accept the Nordic supremacy argument are accepting one of the fundamental doctrines of Nazism," he said.

Secretary Wallace traced the various programs of his department extending through six years. He stressed the conservation of the soil. "Neglect and exploitation of our soil," he said, "have been due to ignorance more than anything else. One of the biggest jobs to be done in this country is the job of public education. The people need to know why certain things have happened and what can be done about them.

Secretary Wallace praised negro farmers for their cooperation with the Federal program. He lauded Tom Campbell, Mrs. Constance Daniel, Giles Hubert, Stokes Haynes, and Miss Florence Wright who are connected with various bureaus in his department.

Not A Very Good Year For Alabama Farmers

This year has not been a good one for Alabama farmers, as we are reminded by several recent news items. Alabama farmers are worse off, for instance, than those in the neighboring states on both sides of us. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington last week reported the farm income for the first nine months of this year was $62,593,000 for Alabama, $90,941,000 for Georgia, and $86,771,000 for Mississippi.

Thus Alabama's farm income through September was more than $24,000,000 less than Mississippi's and more than $28,000,000 less than Georgia's. Alabama and Mississippi have just about the same amount of farm acreage, while Georgia's farm acreage is somewhat larger than ours. The difference in acreage between Alabama and Georgia is far less, proportionately, however, than the difference in farm income this year.

Comparative figures for other years are not at hand, but it is probable that Alabama has fared better in comparison with Georgia and Mississippi in farm income in most other years than it has for 1939.

The explanation for Alabama's relatively low position this year is apparently due largely to the fact that this state did not have a favorable growing season. Excessive rainfall during the Summer reduced the yield of our crops. The monthly report of the state crop reporting service, made public in Montgomery yesterday, shows generally decreased yields. The most notable exception, it appears, is the pecan yield. The Nov. 1 estimate of a 3,927,000-pound pecan crop in Alabama is one of the highest on record, exceeded only by the 1937 production.

The corn yield per acre is estimated at the lowest figure since 1916, with the exception of the drouth year of 1930, when the yield was the same as the estimate for this year. The peanut yield is reported to be the lowest on record, on an acreage basis.

* * *

The statistics concerning crop yields and farm income are not the only evidence of a relatively poor year for Alabama farmers. They find support in the fact that Alabama is receiving more money from the Farm Security Administration than any other state in the Union.

The fact that Alabama receives more rural relief and rehabilitation funds from the federal government than any other state was brought out in Birmingham yesterday by Dr. Will W. Alexander, national administrator of the FSA, who came here to attend a conference of FSA officials from several Southern states. Dr. Alexander explained that FSA funds are distributed according to (1) need and (2) prevalence of farm tenancy.

Evidently Alabama's need of relief among the farm population is greater than that of any other state right now. At the same time, the prevalence of farm tenancy in Alabama is extremely high. Nearly two-thirds of all farmers in the state—64.5 per cent—are tenants or sharecroppers. This is one of the highest tenancy ratios of any state.

Of the 270,000 farm families in Alabama, 31,000 are now receiving FSA assistance. In addition, it has been announced that 20,000 flood-stricken families in the state will be added by the FSA this Winter. They will receive direct relief grants of from $12 to $20 a month for three months. Five thousand of the flood-stricken families will be carried over on the regular case load of the FSA next year.

The comparatively poor crop year, of course, accounts in large part for the fact that Alabama is receiving more FSA money than any other state. Apparently, our neighboring states did not suffer as much from excessive rainfall as Alabamians did. Too much rain last Summer reduced crop yields in general, and on top of that caused heavy floods which destroyed crops altogether in some areas.

* * *

There may be some compensating benefits to offset in part the adversities suffered by Alabama farmers this year. For one thing, the price of cotton bids fair to go considerably higher. Agricultural officials in Washington said last week they believed it possible that the grower price of cotton may advance to the highest point since 1936 before the current marketing season is over, if present domestic consumption and export prospects materialize. For another thing, better business conditions may mean better markets and better prices for farm products in general.

A PAY DAY FOR FARMERS?

The Blount County News, published at Oneonta, remembers sadly that the average farmer has but one pay day a year, and often that is a day for settling old accounts rather than for putting money into the bank. Some farmers are beginning to learn, however, how to have pay days more often than once a year.

"A great many Blount County farmers," says The News, "have found that they can have cash coming in every week by keeping two or three good cows, a flock of hens and a hog to butcher now and then. Livestock on farms is increasing, but not fast enough. Blount County farmers are not producing enough meat, milk and eggs to provide for home consumption, much less a surplus for the market. But the examples set by a few of our farmers are bearing fruit and we predict that not many years will pass until this county will push livestock as it has trucking. And when that time arrives we will have healthier boys and girls and pay checks every week for farmers."

Blount countians are happily situated near the great Birmingham market, and there is little reason why they should not become rich by supplying it with farm products. Distances now do not make a great deal of difference, however, and the most remote county in the State could compete with the other counties in supplying the Birmingham, Mobile and Montgomery stores.

These home markets should be just a beginning; the great cities of the North and East would patronize the Alabama farmer more and more if he would study their needs and improve his product

DAVIS STRESSES FARM PROGRAM

Raising Foodstuffs And Rotation Head List Of Suggestions

AUBURN, Ala.—Four ways for a good farmer to make wise use of all his available land were outlined

Here's Where Eroded Soil Goes, Extension Service Finds



Soil lost by farmers is shown in the unusual picture above. Fletcher Farrington, county agent of Tallapoosa County, finds the soil that came from farms in his county. This bank of soil is at the mouth of Sandy Creek, where it runs into Lake Martin and was visible when the water was drawn off the lake several months ago. This deposit was made in two years, since no deposits were present two years previous when the lake was low. Extensive soil conservation work is reducing this deposit of soil to a great extent.

here this week by P. O. Davis, state extension service director, in discussing what he says cotton has been carrying in the state.

"The 6.5 per cent of the state's crop land in cotton has been paying three-fourths of the annual fertilizer bill of $20,000,000 and for mules, implements, food and feed and even meat," he said.

The director said he belives a farmer will be making the wisest use of his land if he does four things:

1. Take his allotted acreage of cotton, peanuts, or tobacco, and make the best use he can of the land. Make it produce the best crops more abundantly by rotation, legumes, terracing, and other good practices.

2. Make enough food and feed for farm needs. When meat, milk, butter, eggs, potatoes, peas, beans, turnips, fruits, and other vegetables are made at home, cash can go for other needs. Include in the farm plan a good pasture and peanuts, corn, and other feed for livestock.

3. After land for the above purposes is set aside, provide pastures and grain and forage crops for cattle, hogs, sheep, chickens for sale.

4. See that land not suited for growing feed, food or pastures is in trees. By keeping fire out, pruning out undesirable trees, and by cutting wisely, a farmer may double his income from timberland in just a few years.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
January 6, 1939

Colored Tenants Purchase Farm

Booker Smith and Booker Mack colored, yesterday pufchased the Holt McLeod farm containing 351 acres and lying three miles southeast of Comer. The purchase was made from Mr. Will Russell.

Smith and Mack have rented the place for several years, during which time they have lived well because they did not depend entirely upon cotton, but added cattle and hogs.

Anniston, Ala. Star
May 13, 1939

Education And Agriculture

Because of our interest in farm problems and the efforts of agricultural leaders to help improve conditions in the rural sections, we are reproducing the following editorial from The Chattanooga Times which outlines the purpose of agencies working for the benefit of agriculture and the welfare of farm people:

"Even those persons unschooled in topics of a bucolic nature subscribe to the theory that no civilization is much better than its agriculture. No nation can survive, if its farmlands fail, unless it turns bandit and takes precious crop soi from other peoples of the world.

"In America, we have cause to be thankful In this country are sufficient farmlands, whether or not the ends are achieved, to supply food and clothing to all. We have the gift of self-sufficiency but it is a trust which the nation's farmers hav had to be trained to keep. Today we realize tha the topsoil must be preserved, maintained at high degree of fertility and not abused as it wa in the prolific days of our forefathers.

"Twenty-five years ago today, President Wilson signed into law the Smith-Lever Act under which agricultural extension services of the various land grant colleges, cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture, have been laboring since to build up a strong, everlasting agriculture so that all may be fed and clothed and the people who gather their living from the soil may enjoy a more comfortable, happier life. County agents, trained by agricultural colleges, have been employed by many counties. They came not to direct, but to show, to work with farmers, to explain better farming practices found successful over long periods by actual trial. Then, too, came home demonstration agents, their destiny to reach the rural home—women and children. This work was the outgrowth of a vision of Dr. Seaman Knapp, who, shortly after the turn of the century, carried on similar work in Texas for the Department of Agriculture.

"The four-leaf clover insignia of the 4-H Club girl or boy now is familiar to the average person The Home Demonstration Club is a living factor in thousands of communities in this and other states. The county agent is recognized as the agent through which the findings of experiment stations long-time demonstrations and research are transmitted to the farmer. Behind the county and home demonstration agent stand specialists trained in soil practices, livestock production, marketing poultry development, horticulture, forestry, rural electrification, home improvement, gardening, cooking and canning and other important phases of farm and home life."

In this connection, The Montgomery Advertiser offers some thoughtful comment on the farm situation, pointing to W. W. Waymack, editor of The Des Moines Register, as one who "knows as much about agriculture as almost any American editor" and one who "has become distinguished because of that fact, more than any other. "It is one editor in a thousand," The Advertiser avers "who knows much about the basic American industry, the production and distribution of agricultural goods. Yet we all recognize that unless the farmer prospers there is no base for a genuine prosperity for the urban dweller.

"Still the city editor and the city worker remain immensely ignorant of agricultural problems and developments. Mr. Waymack recently criticized American newspapers for their inadequate reporting of farm affairs and their poor understanding of what makes real farm news. 'City things,' he said, 'are not so contemptuously handled.'

"All of which criticism is justly deserved by most of the American press. Yet coupled with that criticism should also be the criticism of the American farmer, who too often is himself immensely ignorant of the science of agriculture Often it is not his fault that he knows so little The exigencies of life and work have made it impossible for him to obtain a sound educational foundation and to pursue the study of farming throughout his life.

"We have all heard a thousand times that the basic American problem is education. It is. More often than not when one finds a successful farmer he finds one who is a careful student of agricultural problems. And more often than not when one finds the impecunious farmer he finds one who has never had any real educational opportunity and one who does not now 'keep up' with developments in his profession.

"There is the vicious circle of no money, no education and no education, no money. It can't be solved by trying to make the money first; education is the first problem, and the sooner all American people, and especially all American farmers, know more about agriculture the sooner we will have an agricultural prosperity, which will mean prosperity, too, for most Americans.

"The problem is the responsibility of the state to provide the necessary means for education. Not long ago The Advertiser saw the case of a Negro farm tenant who had lived all his life from hand to mouth, never earning much for himself or his landlord. A few years ago this Negro's son, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, went back to the farm to work. Soon there was prosperity on that Alabama farm. The young Negro had the necessary training and he knew how to use it."

The Decatur Daily discusses another angle of the agricultural situation, observing: "There never was a time in the history of Alabama when so much attention was directed toward finding markets for our farm products.

"Apparently little attention, however, has been given to one of the more important features of profitable marketing. We refer to the need for dressing up our products.

"No so long ago, a produce dealer was asked:

"'Do you get many potatoes and other perishable farm produce from this territory?'

"'Not so much,' the produce dealer replied. 'I guess there are plenty of potatoes and other produce in season here to make wholesale handling profitable to the grower, the wholesaler and the retailer. But nobody seems to pay any mind to the manner in which the produce is packed. The products are handled in such haphazard manner as to make their sales in quantities difficult if not impossible.'

"Gould M. Beech, writing recently in 'This Month in Rural Alabama,' laments the fact that Alabama products are not properly dressed up and advertised. . . .

"Mr. Beech, very properly, The Daily believes, concludes that a big job of salesmanship is ahead of us if Alabama farm products are to take their rightful place in the retail markets of the nation."

ON KILLING WEEVILS NOW

The Atlanta Constitution strikes a timely blow at a destfuctive and famliiar pest when it says:

"If you get the weevil in time the young will not be hatched" is the annual injunction to all Georgia cotton farmers at this season of the year. Prompt action will spell their doom.

The unusually early emergency of the weevil this year due to warm and wet weather—a condition generally regarded as disastrous—may be average cotton farm—easily may be turned to profit. A prompt attack with poison in all probability will destroy the pests for the entire year, thereby assuring maximum production per acre.

In many cases additional poisoning will be unnecessary. The over-winter weevils will have been destroyed before the eggs have been deposited. No eggs deposited means no weevils hatched.

One of the essentials to successful farming is prompt action in destroying or arresting destructive forces. Many a neglectful and later repentant farmer has seen the tiny streamlet grow from an insignificant temporary trickle, seemingly doing no damage, into an irrestible scourge, cutting his land into unproductive gulleys. A few minutes effort, put in at the proper time and the right place, would have saved the farm

This farming principle applies with striking force to the boll weevil and other cotton pests. An ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure and a pound of poison, in the right place at the proper time, may be worth a good cotton crop instead of a lot of regrets.

This is a timely editorial pep talk, but the working cotton grower here in wet Alabama will scratch his noggin and say in retort: "How are you going to dust weevils in rainy weather?"

Yesterday, however, was a clear day in the Montgomery area and the temperature fell. It may not be too much to hope that this marks the dawn of a brighter day.

AGRICULTURE- 1939

CONDITION OF

ALABAMA

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 15, 1939

PROFIT SHOWN FARMER BY EXPERIMENT STATION

BY BEM PRICE

To meet the farmer's pressing need to "get away from cotton," Alabama has built five agricultural experimental stations throughout the state.

One of these is at Marion Junction and is under direction of K. G. Baker.

The station is valued at $1,000 000 and its problem was to prove to the farmer that money can be made on the farm. It is the home of 52 grasses and clovers—reported to be the only place in the world where all are found—and five soils ranging from acid to lime.

The problem that confronted Baker was to show that cattle would pay. He started with a drouth herd of cows, bred them to registered bulls, and in nine years has raised a herd that appears to be of the same class as registered cattle. At the same time, he has raised some of the finest mules in the state.

Land Marked Off

As part of Baker's experiment, he has marked off several strips of land, each three acres. On one plot, he did nothing to the pasture —and made a profit on the cattle.

On the second plate, he used 200 pounds of phosphate fertilizer . . . and the profit increased. Profits increased on each pasture in succession as he used more and more fertilizer until the amount used reached 800 pounds. Then he said he concluded that too much phosphate fertilizer was of no value.

He showed his visitors from the Louisiana Farm Council Tuesday, 60 acres of land that was once grown in oats and which is now grass and clover. For their benefit, he had a herd driven past in review and all were of the opinion they were as fine as they have seen in Alabama with the exception of the pure registered cattle.

Erosion Problem Met

To meet the erosion problem, Baker has terraced about every 100 feet. By "terrace" is not meant a series of grades on a hillside, but a rise of about one foot every 100 feet of land.

In explanation of his exceptionally fine pastures, Baker said the only care he gave, outside of the fertilizer on the small plots, was to mow them.

After leaving the experimental station, the council went to Selma, where they were the guests of the Kiwanis Club at a luncheon.

En route to Birmingham, the discussion centered around the Negroes. In the Black Belt country there is a large Negro population which was essential under the cotton regime. Under the cattle regime, little labor is needed to tend the herds. What to do with the surplus labor is rapidly becoming a major issue in the district.

Erosion Offers Problem

Another question which arose was the problem of reclaiming land on which the top soil was washed away.

The only solution which the agriculturists could see was to stop the erosion by mechanical means and then "let nature take its course." In time, they explained, something will grow on that land, and with each passing season, nature will restore to the soil that which has been washed away.

Of course, it was pointed out, that method is a long range program. A quicker, but more expensive solution is employment of manure fertilizer on the barren ground. They said.

Tuesday night, the Louisiana Farm Council members arrived in Birmingham for a stop at the Tutwiler Hotel. Later they were the guests of the T. C. I. at an informal dinner at the Mountain Brook Country Club. Wednesday they were conducted on a tour of the T. C. I. plants.

Purpose of the tour was to acquaint them with the problems of Alabama industrial sections and their relationship in the drive for prosperity

Letters To The Editor

THE NEGRO AND SOIL CONSERVATION

Editor, The Advertiser:

Dr. H. H. Bennett, chief of the United States Soil Conservation Service, stated in his address, Wednesday, July 19, at the Kudzu Jamboree held at Camp Hill, Ala., that "The problem of saving our soil is great, but it is my conviction that the inventive genius of the American people will solve the problem as it has done others."

The fulfillment of Dr. Bennett's prophecy regarding soil conservation will be proportional to the intelligent application of the principles and practices advanced by soil scientists and conservation specialists on the part of all the people who actually till the soil.

It has been estimated by the United States Soil Conservation Service that 61 per cent of all the erosion in the United States is in the South. Scientific data have revealed that among the basic causes of erosion in this section, as well as elsewhere, are: poor farming methods, topographical, chemical, physical, vegetative, climatic, and biological factors.

Taking the factor of poor farming under consideration, as this is one of the primary causes of soil waste, it is noteworthy that 70 per cent of the South's colored population is rural. The census shows that in 1930 there was a total Negro farm population in the United States of 4,680,523, with approximately four and a half million in the South.

All of these persons should be informed along the lines of soil conservation.

However, with due regard to other considerations, it is a notorious fact that most of these colored farmers have the least access to adequate training, and are least conversant with the new methods and developments in soil conservation.

Is it not to be conceded that this lack on the part of colored farmers is a decisive factor in the matter of poor farming as a cause of soil erosion . . and should be considered in any program of soil conservation?

Following are the results of a survey which I, in the capacity of Professor of Soils at Tuskegee Institute, conducted among 335 Negro agricultural workers in 12 Southern States, which survey ended in March, 1939, with the objective of gaining some insight into the extent of conservation knowledge among colored agricultural workers in the South, whose activities affect all farms where Negroes are used. These are the results, gained from a study among these 335 vocational teachers of agriculture, county agents, and teachers of agriculture in land-grant colleges:

1. Fifty-four per cent have never studied soil.
2. Sixty-two per cent have had no training in soil conservation.
3. Three per cent stated they did not need any conservation training.
4. Ninety-four per cent admitted that farmers in their territory asked for soil conservation information.
5. Ninety-four per cent stated that they believed a conservationist's aid was needed to help advance the national conservation program in their territory.
6. Eighty-two per cent indicated that they were not getting adequate specialist help in soil conservation.
7. Seventy-seven per cent stated that they were not receiving assistance in their county from specialists in soil conservation, other than from the AAA.
8. Fifty-eight per cent stated that they had not asked for any assistance.

The findings from this survey reveal the startling fact, that the very ones, the agricultural instructors among colored farmers, who are expected to bear the brunt of the work of leading the Negro farmers in the program of soil conservation, as well as in other phases of agricultural endeavor, are themselves inadequately prepared for carrying out the conservation program.

This suggests that it is incumbent upon the United States Soil Conservation Service to see that an adequately trained colored personnel be secured to carry on the all-important work of soil conservation, if that particular phase of the government's program is to be carried out along traditional lines.

It is obvious from the above facts that there is an imperative need for specific training in soil conservation among Negro agricultural workers in the South. This is the only direct manner in which the necessary training and guidance can be transmitted to the Negro farmer and farm worker.

It is true that the conservation program as applied by the Soil Conservation Service has made a commendable approach to the problem of disseminating information and training among the farmers in general in the South. But the fact remains that the majority of Negro farmers and agricultural workers are not receiving the full benefit of this service.

And, it may be that this condition is a direct outgrowth of the method by which the conservation program is being introduced.

In the other agricultural programs sponsored by the government, Negro extension workers, vocational agriculture teachers, farm security workers, and others, have assisted in carrying farm programs to the Negro farmer. They have become accustomed to colored leadership and direction. And it may be safely stated that these workers, because of obvious factors have been able to secure commendable responses.

It seems that the same response would be secured in the all-important program of soil conservation. It is without doubt, true that the efficient, effective, and complete execution of the national soil conservation program of the United States Soil Conservation Service, depends largely on reaching all the farmers, white and colored, in an effective manner. It may be accepted as the duty of all the people, urban and rural, to seek every means to save the soil of this nation.

It is our duty to future generations to do what is best to effect this important task.

The whole story of our duty is implied in the lines of an anonymous, but enthusiastic conservationist, who, with poetic insight, stated:

"Hordes of gullies now remind us,
We should build our lands to stay;
And departing leave behind us,
Fields that have not washed away.
Then when our boys assume the mortgage
On the land that's had our toil,
They'll not have to ask the question,
'Here's the farm, but where's the soil?'"

These comments have been advanced with the thought in mind that since the Negro is an integral part of the agricultural scene in the South, he should be included in any program of improvement in the South.

S. J. PHILLIPS,
Field Representative, Tuskegee Institute,
Tuskegee, Ala.

Montgomery, Ala Journal
July 6, 1939

Negro Curb Market

Montgomery's curb market is one of the most successful institutions of its kind, but there are a number of other such markets in the state that serve as a means of direct contact between the farmer who produces and the consumer who buys. One of the successful curb markets is that in Tuscaloosa and now the Tuscaloosa News tells of the flourishing negro curb market also in that city.

"The negro curb market," says the News, "is building a neat little lattice-work fence, and otherwise sprucing itself up. The negro market celebrated its third anniversary only a few weeks ago, and, like the white market, it has already become something of an institution with Tuscaloosa.

"With sales days being held twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday, the receipts during the summer are running as high as $400 a month, and there are more than 50 sellers who offer their wares on the market from time to time. The larger curb market at the court house is exclusively for white sellers and the negro market is exclusively for negro sellers, but no color line is drawn in either instance by or on the buyers. The preponderance of buyers on the negro market are negroes, but a number of white people use this market, especially on Wednesday, when the white market is not operating."

Farm Tenant, Share Cropper Still Multiplying In Alabama

By ATTICUS MULLIN

It was learned at Auburn last week at the conference of the nation's manufactures with Alabama farmers that there has been a steady increase in farm tenancy in Alabama and also in the number of share croppers since 1880 when the first intelligent farm census was made in the State.

For instance, in 1880, there were 63,649 tenant farms in Alabama with no share croppers reported. Twenty years later, or in 1900, there were 123,874 tenant farmers with no share croppers reported. It is possible that share croppers were included in the tenancy list of both periods.

In 1920 there were 248,209 tenants reported with [illegible] 47,897 share croppers which leads statisticians to believe that share croppers were reported as tenants in previous years.

In 1930 the number of tenants had increased to 166,420 and the number of share croppers to 65,134. This would tend to prove, by the progressive increase of both tenants and share croppers reported, that share croppers were tenants in the earlier reports of 1880.

Tenants Multiplied

The year 1935 is the last in which statistics can be secured on tenants, owners and share croppers in Alabama and in that year tenants had grown to the total of 176,247 and share croppers to 67,974. It is reasonable to believe that the total number of tenants and share croppers this year is considerably above that of 1935.

Many people might gain the impression that the number of tenants and share croppers have grown in Alabama because the acres of tillable lands have increased. But this is a fallacy.

There are available figures showing the number of acres under cultivation in 1880. In that year there were 18,855,334 acres in cultivation with a total number of farmers of 135,864.

But in 1935, the last year for which official census information on farms is available, the total number of acres in cultivation in Alabama were 19,660,828 but in the 55 years intervening the number of farms had grown to 273,455. In other words, the tillable acres had imperceptibly increased but the number of farm owners had more than doubled.

Less Land To Farmer

Official census figures show that in 1880 each farmer tilled an average of 138.8 acres. But in 1935 the average Alabama farmer tilled but 71.9 acres.

It appears that as the number of acres per farm declined the steady growth of tenancy and share cropping quickened.

An interesting bit of correct statistical information dating from 1910 about farm lands in Alabama is that in 1910 the improved farm acres in Alabama numbered 9,693,581 while in the last census of 1935, the improved acreage had grown but little to 9,719,511. There has been some growth since then.

The Advertiser carried the story yesterday that Alabama and the South ranks high in the number of high income farmers and that the low average farm income in the South is really determined by the very low income of share croppers, tenants and census-enumerated farm hands. But suffice it to say that there is no more land really in cultivation in Alabama now than there was 50 years ago but the little farms of today are caused by the tenants and share croppers in the main and in the decline in the general income of Southern farmers as compared with the pre-War Between the State days. Alabama farm acres have not increased but the number of Alabama farmers has more than doubled with progressive decreases in farm income.

FARMERS BEHIND CROP INSURANCE

They Demand Feasible Plan Against Losses Due To Drouth Or Flood

BY DONALD L. ROBERTSON

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Out of the catastrophe suffered by Alabama farmers this year, due to excessive rains, has come a strong demand from farmers for a feasible plan of crop insurance for cotton. Howard Gray, president of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, with headquarters here, revealed this after contact with farmers throughout the state who have made very small yields or almost nothing.

Where this condition prevails, Mr. Gray explained, farmers, in the absence of insurance, are like the owners of a building which burns with no insurance to cover it.

In response to this need, Mr. Gray and farmers throughout the state are showing keen interest in a bill on the House calendar at Washington providing a system of insurance for cotton similar to that now available for wheat. This bill originated in the Senate under the leadership of Senator John H. Bankhead, where it was approved before Congress adjourned in the Summer. Only House action and White House approval are needed, therefore, for it to become a law.

With comprehensive data available in the AAA records, insurance for cotton is now feasible. P. O. Davis, director of the Alabama Extension Service, has endorsed it, from the standpoint of need, as being sound.

Crop insurance, Mr. Davis has explained, does not guarantee yields. On the other hand, it protects farmers against the hazards of weather, ravages of insects and diseases. The basis would be determined by a percentage of the farmer's normal yield, beyond which there would be no protection.

Mr. Gary said the executive committee of the State Farm Bureau had unanimously passed a resolution and sent it to every member of Alabama's congressional delegation urging them to vote for the cotton insurance bill and to work for favorable action early in the January session, so that the program can be put into operation in 1940.

How will the program work? Gray explains it this way: It is a voluntary program under which a farmer would pay a premium, in cotton, on a "policy" on his cotton crop. The premium would be so many pounds of cotton per acre and based on the average crop loss experience of the county and adjusted for the farmer.

The farmer can insure as much as 75 per cent of his crop against losses for insects, disaster, floods, hail storms or any other climatic conditions over which he has no control. The insurance will not cover the farmer's failure to properly cultivate or take care of his crop.

$80,000 Here In U. S. Checks For Farmers

Additional $20,000 Yet To Arrive On Cotton Subsidy For '39 Crop

Cotton subsidy checks totalling approximately $80,000 are being distributed this week to Montgomery County farmers, it was announced yesterday at the office of Lem A. Edmonson, farm agent. It was estimated that an additional $20,000 was yet to be received from Washington, bringing Montgomery County's total subsidies to $100,000 for 1939.

Delivery of the checks started yesterday in Beats 18, 19 and 22. Representatives of Mr. Edmonson's office will visit several precincts each day during the remainder of the week, completing the deliveries Saturday at Mt. Meigs and Mitylene.

Each check must be delivered to the person to whom it is made. Notices have been mailed from the farm agent's office to farmers for whom checks have been received. Other payments will be made as fast as the checks arrive, it was said.

The schedule of delivery of checks for the rest of the week is as follows:

Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., Beat 9, Rhode's Store; 9 to 10 a.m., Beat 10, Mosley's Store; 10:30 a.m. to noon, Beat 16, Fleta; 1:30 to 1:45 p.m., Beat 15, LaPine; 2:15 to 3:15 p.m., Beat 15, Ramer; 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Beat 11, Red Level Cross Roads.

Friday, 8 to 8:45 a.m., Beat 8, Berry's Store; 9 to 10 a.m., Beat 17, Pike Road; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Beat 12, Teasley's; 1 to 2 p.m., Beat 13, Pine Level; 3 to 4 p.m., Beat 14, Dublin.

Saturday, 8 to 10 a.m., Beat 21, Mt. Meigs; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Beat 20, Mitylene.

Ruralists Hear Plea To Save Native Wealth

Legal Phrases In Tenant Contracts Draw Ire Of Land Bureau Chief

AUBURN, ALA., Aug. 2.—(AP)—A plea for conservation of America's natural resources was heard today by over 1,0000 Alabama farmers.

Mrs. Edwin Bevins, Helena, Ark., representing the American Federation of Women's Clubs, scored "useless waste of resources," and admonished: "We had better wake up."

The ruralists, gathered here for the annual farm and home week, also heard a call for cooperation with an understanding of county governments.

J. M. Wood, Jacksonville, president of the association of county commissioners was applauded as he spoke of "the good old days" when there was no thought of soil conservation; when there was no thought of building roads and bridges. The county governments have the welfare of agriculture at heart, they in turn want farm people to understand some of their problems, he said.

County Growth Traced

A. W. Heustess, secretary of the commissioners association, outlined the growth of county government and told of continued addition of new responsibilities.

"In 1897 we had the first move toward building roads and bridges," he said. "That year Montgomery County was empowered to spend money on the old Mobile road. From this grew the present highway commission and the highway system we have in Alabama today.

Heustess said gasoline taxes were started back in 1919. A law taxing gasoline was passed in 1921, but was declared unconstitutional. In 1923 another law was passed.

Counties Do Help

"Some people still wonder why counties do not help build roads," he declared. "Last year counties helped the State in road building with around $900,000. Eighty per cent of income on license tags goes to State Highway ants want and should have a chance to be secure on a piece of land."

Tenants To Stay

"There will probably be tenants in Alabama and the rest of the country for years to come, but there is possibility of giving farmers security even if they are tenants," he said. "Ownership of farms would be nice but I doubt if we will ever have all farmers who own their farms."

Trent pointed out the great mobility of tenants each year was the worst part of tenancy and added that in 1934 40 per cent of the tenants in Alabama moved each year. "You cannot shift one-fourth of the farm population each year from one farm to another without creating serious problems, mainly financial.

"Other problems are church, school, and social life," according to Trent. "No program of soil building and home improvement can succeed against this great mobility of farmers."

Haphazardness Scored

He scored the "haphazard, indefinite and unbusinesslike system of tenure arrangements as the great cause of this annually moving" and advocated clearly written, simple, and fair leases between land lords and tenants as a means of solving this problem.

Trent advocated that all governmental agencies, landlords and tenants, white and colored, join hands in working out plans for improvements in the tenure system and said this could best be done in county, State and community planning committees being set up in the State.

Cattle Undeveloped

Alabama is not realizing half of its possibilities in pastures, crops, forestry, or livestock production. That was emphatically stated today by workers of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute who discussed land use in the State with these crops.

Although Alabama has made phenomenal progress in two years in building pastures, farmers as a whole do not realize that to make livestock production successful they must have good pastures, stated D. G. Sturkie.

Pointing to phosphate and lime magic in pasture building, Sturkie called on farm men and women to use pastures, to make them better, and raise more livestock. Sturkie said also that farmers can greatly increase their other crop yields, as evidenced by findings of the Alabama Experiment Station.

Idle Land To Trees

L. M. Ware, head of horticulture, said: "Alabama must make forestry a definite part of farming. We can double our income from forestry but we must utilize our idle land with tree planting."

Corn in North Alabama, peanuts in South Alabama, soybeans, and oats all over the State, along with good pasture makes possible cheap hog production, according to J. C. Grimes, head of animal husbandry. Peanuts, hay, Black Belt pasture crops everywhere makes cheap beef cattle production possible, he said, pointing to experimental information developed in every section of the State.

Rufus Page, extension forester, said that when farmers decide to pay half as much attention to farm woodland as they do to other crops they will begin to realize what timber can do. He recommended that harvesting methods be employed, that idle land be devoted to trees, and advocated community forest tree planting projects.

Farm Bureau Tells Of Federation's Growth

AUBURN, ALA., Aug. 2.—Representatives of 22,829 members of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, in annual meeting here today heard that the organization has increased its membership, has built its program around community organizations and that it has a bank balance of more than $10,000 with all obligations paid.

The more than 200 delegates also went on record as favoring an increase in truck loads in Alabama up to 24,000 pounds to protect livestock producers who haul their cattle and hogs; that county commissioners be empowered upon receipt of a petition signed by a majority of farmers to assess a tax not to exceed four cents an acre to pay for forest fire protection, and approved the crop improvement association bill now before the Alabama Legislature.

Oppose Seed Tax

Other resolutions approved by the delegates were those opposing a tax of one-half to one mill per pound on farm seed as opposed by the agricultural recess committee of the State Legislature; opposing a gin control board to regulate cotton ginning in Alabama; opposing the Bailey bill in Congress which "proposes to appropriate substantial funds of money to be used by State Department of Agriculture to expand marketing services"; opposing Sections 115, 116, 119, 120 of the proposed amendment to the agricultural code of Alabama "which will impose additional cost and inconveniences on farmers far in excess of the benefits" to be derived.

Favors Exemption

The Bureau members also passed resolutions favoring exemptions to agricultural industries close to the farm under the wage and hour act; urging that Federal aid be given for health and education, urging that interest rates on Federal Land Bank loans be reduced to not to exceed three per cent; asking State and State agencies to cooperate with Rural Electrification Administration; and asking that all agencies to assist local farm leaders in every way possible to perfect organizations and develop community and county programs of work and rural leadership.

Howard Gray, New Market, was re-elected president of the bureau. In his report Gray emphasized that the Farm Bureau was and would continue to be educational, that it was built around community bureaus and that Tuscaloosa County led in membership with 3,122 members followed by Montgomery with 2,051, Choctaw with 1,400 and Butler with 1,250.

Department and 20 per cent goes to county or city."

Mrs. Bevins, in reviewing a trip over United States recently said that when she looked at land and figures for the United States she saw that whereas Egypt in the height of her power averaged 10 persons to every eight acres, the United States average now is 14 1-2 acres per person.

She pointed out sharp contrast between land Columbus found with fewer than 1,000,000 inhabitants and the United States today with its 130,000,000 inhabitants. She pointed to the receding water level as a sign "we had better wake up."

Roads Fork Here

In conclusion she said "there are those who tell us the roads fork here. We have no choice. We may take the steep and narrow path into land of plenty for many generations to come, or we may take the broad, easy highway down which so many splendid empires have marched to their destruction."

A plea that farm leases and contracts be stripped of the whereof, wherefors, parties of the first and second part, and lessor and lessee so that the average layman could understand it, was made by D. P. Trent, chief of the tenure improvement section, Farm Security Administration.

He said that leases could be made simple and understandable without so many legal phrases. Lawyers of the United States Department of Agriculture, he said, agree that a lease in simple language is as legal and enforceable as one drawn in legalistic language.

Trent spoke on the morning session of the farm and home week program and his address was followed by a discussion of land tenure and tenancy in Alabama, led by Emmett L. Sizemore, district supervisor of the Alabama Extension Service.

Pointing out that Alabama's per cent of tenancy in 1935 was 64.5 per cent, Trent emphasized that "more than anything else farmers and ten-

Tuskegee, Ala., News
October 5, 1939

MACON COUNTY NEGRO FARMERS VISIT EXPERIMENT STATION AT AUBURN

250 Negro farm men and women, representing every section of Macon County and almost every community, visited the Auburn Experiment Station on Thursday, September 28th.

The day's program was arranged to meet the needs of the average farmer with special emphasis on poultry, hog raising, gardening, soil conservation and pastures.

The cement sack poultry house, the lamp brooder and home grown feed, offered a solution to the low income farmer's poultry problems.

The horticulture division stressed the importance of the home orchard and recommended the varieties of fruit and nut trees and small fruits best suited to the climate and soil of Macon County: The Champanel Grape, Hackworth Apple, Alberta Peach and Stuart Pecan. Scuppernongs, muscadines, figs and huckleberries offer a supply of fruits to every farmer with little effort and no expense.

The visit to the garden where more than a dozen different vegetables were ready for table use, was proof of the possibilities of a summer and fall graden in this section.

The method of determining the relation of soil erosion to the slope of the land and the construction of the Nichols Terrace was of much interest to the group.

White clover, oats and lespedeza were recommended for hog pastures. It was stated that good grazing with the addition of some minerals will reduce the cost of pork production by half in comparison with feeding hogs corn or peanuts alone.

The trip to Auburn was sponsored by County Agent R. T. Thurston and Home Demonstration Agent L. R. Daly, in cooperation with M. F. Whatley, white County Agent J. C. Ford, Extension Coordinator.

Alabama Farm Acreage Same For 80 Years

Static Condition Traced To Ravages Of Erosion

By ATTICUS MULLIN

Alabama was a highly developed agricultural State as far back as 1860 according to authentic information secured by the Auburn Extension Service and brought out at a recent meeting of manufacturers and farmers at Auburn.

The Advertiser has called attention to the lack of growth to any extent of cultivable acreage in Alabama from the year 1880 to and through the year 1935, the last year for which records are available at this time.

But in 1860 Alabama had lands in cultivation amounting to more than 19,100,000 acres. The Federal census of 1935 reported Alabama lands in cultivation amounting to 19,660,000 acres, a very small percentage increase in 79 years.

Auburn reports that in 1860 there were 347 acres to the farm in Alabama while in 1935, as has been reported in The Advertiser, this acreage per farm had decreased to 72 acres. It was noted, however, that the average size of Alabama farms had changed little in the last 25 years indicating that the subdivision of farms into smaller acreage was practically completed in 1910.

The Auburn report says "since acreage of land in farms has remained almost unchanged in 75 years while the average size of farms has decreased 80 per cent, it is obvious that the number of farm units has increased five-fold. In other words, the number of farm units increased from 55,126 in 1860 to 273,455 in 1935. This is the largest number of farms in the history of the State.

Lots of people wonder why farm tillable acreage has not increased since 1860 with so much new ground added to farms. The answer is obvious. Alabama farmers have lost millions of acres through erosion that had to be made up with new ground from timbered areas.

Meeting To Discuss 1940 Farm Program Scheduled

Farmers Of County Asked To Bring Problems, Questions

A series of meetings for both white and colored farmers of Madison county, at which the 1940 farm program and agriculture in general will be discussed, have been arranged for next week and the week following.

County farm officials are attending a farm planning meeting this week at Decatur, in preparation to holding the sessions next week.

Particular emphasis on how a farmer may obtain most of his soil building allowances under the AAA will be given at the various meetings.

Next week's schedule of meetings for white farmers are as follows:

Monday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 p. m.—New Market, at school building; Plevna, at school building; Riverton, at school building.

Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p. m.—Monrovia, at school building; Madison Cross Roads, at Toney school building; Central, at school building.

Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p. m. —Hazel Green, at schol building; Walnut Grove, at school building; Pulaski pike, at school building.

Thursday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 p. m. — Owens Cross Roads, at school building; Madison, at school building; New Hope, at school building.

The schedule of meetings for negro farmers follows:

Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7:30 p. m —Pond beat, at Horton's schoo building; Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m.—Fletcher's Chapel, located four miles west of Huntsville on Athens pike; Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p. m. —Farmers Capitol school, lcated 12 miles northeast of Huntsville on the Moore's Mill road.

In letters to farmers, J. B. Mitchell, county farm agent, stated:

"We are anxious for all of our people who can to attend these meetings, as timely topics relating to agriculture and your farm program will be discussed.

"If you have any particular problem or question that you would like to ask, please bring them to these meetings, and we will endeavor to answer them, or get you the information, if it is possible to do so."

Mr. Mitchell said the arrangements for negro farmers were worked out in cooperation with County Agent W. T. Gravit.

Besides the county agent's force, Farm Security Administration officials of the county are expected to assist in conducting the meetings.

SASSAFRAS: ROCK-BREAKING TEA

In times not far removed childhood was a series of rigors and regimens instead of a mere span of years as it is today. Seasonal tonics, designed either to thin the blood or thicken it as the calendar dictated, were interspersed with all-round panaceas which exorcised disease before it struck.

It is easy to understand how the senior citizen of today looks with something akin to disgust on the pampered lives of 1939's children. When he was a child it took real fortitude to keep smiling and playful when approaching the weekly date with calomel and quinine. Weeks before the spring tonic was to be administered children knew about it. It took a steel nerve to face the sulphur and smelly ointments of which the treatment consisted. They did it though, and those who qualified as worthy came through all right and are with us today.

One of the few things included in the medicament routine of yesteryear's childhood that leaned on the pleasant side was sassafras tea. This, perhaps, was included as a reward for undergoing the other portions of the treatment. It usually was the last of a series of administrations.

Sassafras tea, because of its associations with medicaments, never had great popularity with adults. Children were sometimes allowed to drink the tea for the pure pleasure and novelty of it, but parents of that day generally felt that children should do nothing that did not help them on the road to health and so such relaxations of vigor were rare.

Sassafras tea is prepared just like tea from the oriental leaf. The root must be cured properly and then cut into small enough pieces to be handled conveniently. It is put into hot water and the flavoring oils extracted into the water.

Today's gourmets who have kept alive the practice of drinking sassafras tea recommend that just a little sugar be used with milk to flavor the finished beverage. Pure cream is not recommended, but the milk should be on the rich side.

The sassafras plant is indigenous to the southern portion of North America. Early colonists found the Indians enjoying the beverage and imitated them. They thought so highly of the beverage that one of the earliest exports to the old world was the sassafras root. The name sassafras was given the plant by someone among the colonists who knew plant life in Spain. There is a close resemblance between the American sassafras foliage and the Spanish saxifrage foliage. The name results from confusion and bad spelling. The Spanish name means "rock-breaking," probably stemming from the ability of the plant to grow in rocky places where its roots split the rocks.

Sassafras is due for a comeback. Time has largely stripped it of the unsavory connotations of medicinal character and today the root makes its appeal solely on the grounds of being a delightful beverage.

Under the guidance of Tuskegee Institute a firm has been organized to give the root the dignity of proper handling. For years a trade in the root has been carried on in a primitive way but this new enterprise cures the roots properly, shreds them into convenient flakes, and then packages them attractively for retail sale.

A large chain of grocery stores in Montgomery has made up a special display of the cellophone packages and reports that sales are encouraging.

This is a new industry for Alabama that has a comfortably old flavor about it. The crop is purely indigenous and native talent developed the machine to shred it, designed the package and label, and launched it in retail stores. This makes it Alabama's own contribution to the American business scene. We can recollect no other industry that enjoys such a handsome distinction. We wish it success.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

ALABAMA

WALLACE TO TUSKEGEE ON NOVEMBER 11

Secretary of Agriculture to Address Extension Directors, Workers

TUSKEGEE.—(ANP)— Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace will speak here on Saturday, November 11, according to an announcement by President F. D. Patterson.

Secretary Wallace comes in response to a joint invitation from President Patterson, President J. F. Drake of the Alabama A. and M. college at Normal, President W. H. Bell of Mississippi A. and M. college at Alcorn, President B. F. Hubert of Georgia State Industrial college at Savannah, President I. R. E. Lee of the Florida A. and M. college at Tallahassee, and President M. F. Whittaker of South Carolina State college at Orangeburg. Dr. Patterson also stated that state extension directors in the five states have authorized their Negro extension workers to organize groups of Negro farmers in each of the states to attend the meeting.

Negro teachers in rural schools Negro teachers of vocational agriculture, Jeanes supervisors, and other leaders are cooperating with the extension workers in arranging for farmers to attend.

Other officials from Washington who are expected to accompany Secretary Wallace are AAA Administer R. M. Evans, I. W. Duggan, director southern division, AAA, and E. A. Miller, assistant to director southern division, AAA.

Wallace Debunks Old Idea War Aids Cotton Planter

Farm Problem Is Half City Problem, Says Secretary, As He Passes Through Here; Cites Need for Industry To Absorb Surplus Rural Population.

By WILLARD COPE.

The number one brain of the Roosevelt cabinet—Secretary Henry A. Wallace—rushed through Atlanta pretty fast last night but had time to debunk, or decry, pleasantly but surely, the old, old idea that war brings prosperity to the cotton farmer.

"If you analyze the figures of cotton production and consumption of the last World War, you discover that they level out over the years," he pointed out. "The some thing will happen with this war, I believe. It's true that we will sell more cotton this year—but that will be a matter of taking up the slack of last year. In the long run, the idea just fades out."

Speaks Off-hand.

He was speaking off-hand, with no statistics before him. In fact, he was rather fatigued from a hurried automobile journey from Tuskegee, Ala., where earlier he had made a trenchant Armistice Day address in which dictators took an intellectual beating, while better understanding among races received earnest support.

In about 12 minutes—the time it took his Washington-bound train to travel from the Terminal station to Brookwood—the clear-eyed, kindly secretary of agriculture looked the farm situation squarely in its knotty, undernourished face and offered some suggestions toward solutions.

"The farm problem is at least one-half a city problem," he said. "There must be more industry to take care of the inevitable surplus of farm population. After all, people can eat only so much, or use just so much farm products, and so it isn't possible for an increasing farm population to maintain itself on the farm.

Flowing Credit.

"Freely flowing credit, supplied either privately or by government, must make possible the industrial expansion. There is no novelty to the idea. It has been expressed over and over. It is the idea of a balance between agriculture and industry. But it still remains to be realized.

"There is a condition of stagnation on our farms, an important factor in which is the failure of the cities, because of industrial depression, to draw off the surplus of farm population in the normal way. Thus the explanation runs somewhat in a circle—the farm problem becomes an industrial question and must be solved, at least to an important extent, by improvement of industrial conditions."

He disclosed recent figures of corn production in Iowa, Indiana and Illinois, in arresting contrast to Georgia production. In the three states there was an average yield of 50 bushels to the acre, while in Georgia the figure was slightly less than nine.

"This, of course, shows a farm condition which should be improved," he observed. "It shows better farming methods are needed in the southeast. And, coupled with this, is the necessity for more land to be worked by the individual farmer—a greater opportunity offered for profitable labor."

Evince Interest.

Interest was evinced by the official, and his aide, Sam Bledsoe, in a recent bulletin of the Georgia Citizens' Fact Finding movement, dealing with agricultural problems and offering far-reaching remedies. A copy of the bulletin was given to the secretary by Ralph McGill, executive editor of The Constitution, for more careful perusal in Washington.

WALLACE SCORES TOTALITARIANISM

Also Urges Race Tolerance In Tuskegee Address

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace coupled denunciation of totalitarian government and a plea for better understanding among the races in an Armistice Day address to more than 5,000 Southeastern Negro educators and farmers here Saturday.

"Followers of alien 'isms' in this country," he said almost at the outset, "have had a rude shock.

"They have found that all totalitarian government leads to one and the same thing—the suppression of free speech, private property and individual liberty."

"The American people want no dictators or dictatorships. They have democracy in their blood. They want a chance to 'cuss' the government from top to bottom."

Turning from totalitarian denunciation, Wallace said "permanent democracy requires soil-building and security of farm tenure," adding, "we cannot preserve democracy simply by disliking dictatorship."

Wallace said his experiences "in the field of genetics" and "with social problems," have led him to the conclustion that "almost all, if not all the propaganda about superior racial stocks has no basis in scientific fact."

"So long as one can assume that the poverty of certain groups—either white or colored—is due to inferiority," he continued, "it is easy enough to find excuses for doing nothing about the situation . . . One of your tasks is the creation of a better understanding between the races."

The secretary declared the multi-purpose programs of his department had been "worth their cost and more."

Wallace greeted Dr. George Washington Carver, Tuskegee Institute's famed Negro scientist, "as my old friend," and Carver responded later by recalling while he was a student at Iowa State College he studied under the secretary's father and "often took that young fellow (Henry A.) on botany trips."

Sea Island Cotton Is Not For Alabama

Many Alabama farmers, it seems, have shown an interest in Sea Island cotton after reading accounts of the sale of 27 bales of this long-staple variety at Mobile for more than 30 cents a pound. This evidently looked like big money to some farmers in the state, and they entertained the idea that they might get some of it for themselves if they planted Sea Island cotton.

Interest in Sea Island cotton became so pronounced that J. C. Lowery, agronomist of the State Extension Service, felt it was necessary to warn farmers that this kind of cotton cannot be generally cultivated successfully in Alabama. Mr. Lowery points out that it is a highly specialized crop and is very hazardous, being especially susceptible to weather conditions, boll weevils, trash and rain damage.

"We advise farmers not to attempt to grow this crop and not to purchase seed with the intention of getting rich with 30-cents-a-pound cotton," he says.

The Extension Service itself is growing Sea Island cotton experimentally, but only in selected areas.

Anyone who knows anything about Sea Island cotton should know that it is not for Alabama, except perhaps to a limited extent in a few areas which may be adapted to its cultivation. Comparatively little Sea Island cotton is grown anywhere. It is highly specialized with regard not only to growing conditions but also to its uses. While it commands a high price, it would hardly continue to do so if its production were greatly increased, even if that were possible.

While Alabama farmers in general cannot grow Sea Island cotton, they can and should, however, try to improve the length of the staple of the kind of cotton they are already growing. A longer staple will mean better prices for them, even though it does not bring such fancy prices as Sea Island cotton. In recent years there has been some improvement in the length of staple in Alabama, but there is room for much more.

WALLACE FLAYS DICTATORSHIPS IN TUSKEGEE SPEECH

Constitution

5,000 Dixie Negro Educators and Farmers Hear Plea for Understanding Between Races.

11-12-39

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Nov. 11.—(AP) Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace coupled denunciation of totalitarian government and a plea for better understanding between the races in an Armistice Day address to more than 5,000 southeastern Negro educators and farmers here today.

Atlanta, Ga.

"Followers of alien 'isms' in this country," he said almost at the outset, "have had a rude shock.

"They have found that all totalitarian government leads to one and the same thing—the suppression of free speech, private property and individual liberty."

No Dictators Wanted.

"The American people," he continued, "want no dictators or dictatorships. They have democracy in their blood. They want a chance to 'cuss' the government from top to bottom."

Turning from totalitarian denunciation, Wallace said "permanent democracy requires soil-building and security of farm tenure," adding, "we cannot preserve democracy simply by disliking dictatorship."

War Threatens Democracy.

"Wars abroad make us all realize what a privilege it is to be an American," he asserted, but predicted war's effects "will make it harder to preserve democracy."

Wallace said his experiences "in the field of genetics" and "with social problems," have led him to the conclusion that "almost all, if not all the propaganda about superior racial stocks has no basis in scientific fact."

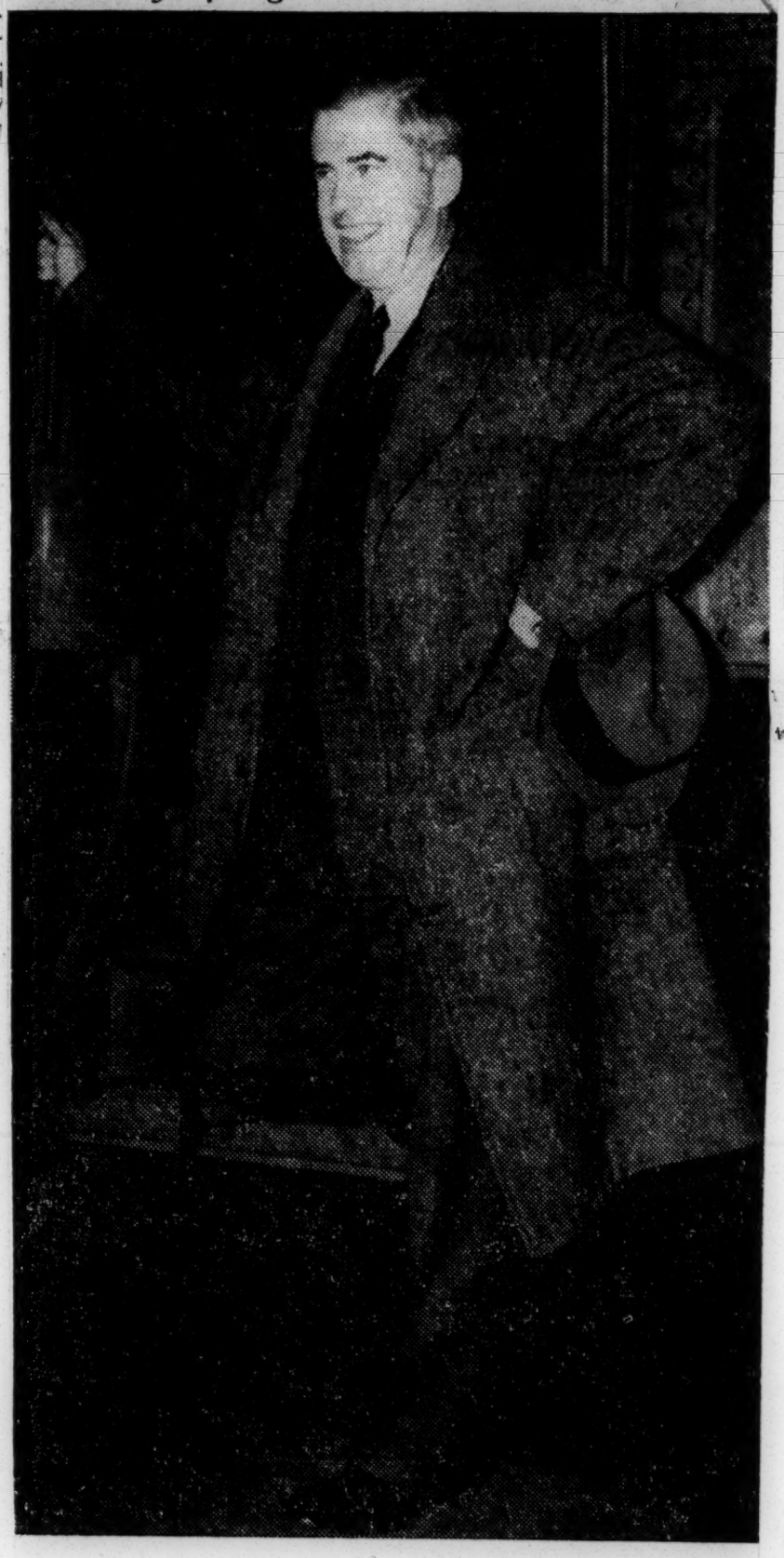
"Seek Understanding."

"So long as one can assume that the poverty of certain groups—either white or colored—is due to inferiority," he continued, "it is easy enough to find excuses for doing nothing about the situation. . . .

"One of your tasks is the creation of a better understanding between the races.

"With Europe's turmoil in mind, Americans everywhere could well afford to help in creating better understanding and better relationships. This means removal of discrimination wherever it exists. . . . The existence of discontented and embittered minorities could easily be a threat to the whole nation. . . ."

Secretary of Agriculture Pauses in Atlanta



Constitution Staff Photo—H. J. Slayto

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace pauses for a moment in Atlanta as he returns to Washington from an Armi-ce Day appearance at Tuskegee Institute. He declared here .e idea of large war profits from cotton was erroneous.

Wallace Raps Dictators in Alabama Talk

Dox

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NEGRO FARMERS VOTING IN ARK.



In the recent cotton marketing quota referendum conducted by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, thousands of Negro farmers in the South voted "yes" or "no". The picture above was taken in a voting place near Helena in Phillips county, Arkansas.

Geese 'Weed' Arkansas Cotton; Dexerity Saves Farmer Dough

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., June 19.—In Western Mississippi County, they're letting geese weed out cotton now instead of having it chopped by hand.

That it is economical to use geese to keep cotton clean has been proved by records of several farmers. Sam Price, who farms 67 acres of land near Manila, has hired only 24½ days of chopping for his 27 acres of land, in addition to the work done by his flock of 35 geese, his son and himself.

Geese Do the Job

His cotton has had an unusual amount of Johnson grass in it but the geese quickly extinguish the weed.

Mr. Price figures that he already has a total saving of $40.50 on his crop's chopping, and the rainy weather didn't hurt as the geese eat grass 16 hours each day in both wet and dry weather.

The geese cost very little for feed during the year as Mr. Price turns them on his corn field after the grass is gone from the cotton and on the wheat and rye cover crops in Winter. This is supplemented by a small amount of corn whenever additional strength is needed.

Take Work Seriously

The geese actually seem to take their work seriously, rarely stray from the field, and get every blade of grass, leaving all the cotton.

One farmer said they stop at intervals of about one hour throughout the day and rest and then return to the field.

Some farmers in the Manila vicinity keep flocks of 75 to 100 geese for this work and sell them after the crop is made.

DYESS COLONY WINS FIGHT WITH TENANTS

Court Decision Goes Against Two Colonists

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Aug. 10.—Decrees in favor of Dyess Colony, Inc., were rendered today by Chancellor J. F. Gautney of Jonesboro, against S. B. Funk and A. J. McCravin, two of the colonists, for possession of their tracts of land at the 16,000-acre Government rehabilitation project in Mississippi County.

It was held that the colony should pay McCravin for clearing which he had done on his land to the amount of approximately $100.

Have to Move

If no efforts are made for an appeal of the case, Funk and McCravin will have to move within several days from the colony land which they have farmed for five years. Mr. McCravin was farming 22 acres and Mr. Funk, 40 acres.

The ouster suits, originally filed more than a year ago, were heard in Chancery Court at Osceola, July 21, after more than eight months since depositions were started in the civil case.

Officials of the colony sought to evict the two colonists on the grounds that they were tenants at will, and removal on termination of that relationship by the colony after having been found not to be ample and sufficient.

Charge Mistreatment

The colonists contended that they were victims of repudiated rights, profiteering and mistreatment on the part of colony officials. They declared they were being charged from $80 to $100 per acre for land that cost the Government $2.50 per acre and that they were being forced to pay $1800 for ordinary farm houses worth, not more than $800.

The ouster proceedings, which have attracted national interest, were returned to public light in March when Floyd Sharp, head of the $3,396,250 farm rehabilitation experiment, announced that the cases would be tried in answer to a series of indignation meetings held at Osceola which were climaxed with the sending of a letter to President Roosevelt in which the colonists voiced their objections to the manner in which they were being treated.

Arkansans Who Forsook City And Regular Pay Find Farm A Worthwhile Place To Be

Landowner and Tenant Are State Third Place Winners In 1939 Plant To Prosper Competition—And They Plan To Keep On 'Being Sensible'

By WALTER DURHAM
Director, Plant To Prosper Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Nov. 12.—Two Arkansas farmers—a landowner and a tenant—who forsook regular monthly salaries "in town" to earn their living from the soil are state third place winners in their respective divisions of the 1939 Plant To Prosper Competition.

They are Dean Mattison, 29-year-old Nevada Countian, who purchased a 97-acre tract two years ago, and John R. Turney, 46, who operates a 225-acre farm in Cleburne County.

Mr. Mattison and Mr. Turney each will receive $50 from The Commercial Appeal at the annual MidSouth Farm Forum and Plant To Prosper banquet in Memphis Dec. 19.

Except for the two years he clerked in a grocery store, Mr. Mattison has lived on the farm all his life. He first entered the Plant To Prosper Competition in 1936 as a tenant, and won the county championship that year, and again in 1937. Last year he entered as a landowner, having purchased his own farm from his father-in-law, and won the county championship in the Landowner Division.

22 Years' Experience

Mr. Turney has had 22 years' experience in farming, all of which has been spent as a tenant. He hopes, however, to soon be able to purchase his own acreage. For four years he worked as a carpenter, but his love of the land compelled him to return to the farm a few years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Mattison, who have been married eight years, have a son, Harry Doyce, three, who was born in the same room his mother was 23 years before. Mr. and Mrs. Turney, married for 17 years, have six children, Hershel, 16; Betty Jo, 14; Howard, 11; Henry, 12; Herman, 7; Harold, 1.

Mr. Mattison's total farm receipts for the year were $4402.82, of which $3,299.23 was net. A summary of his income for the year shows that he received $1182 for feed and seed; $1091.92 from livestock; $754.70 from food consumed by his family; $973.99 from field crops and $400.21 from benefit payments, livestock service fees, service from a tenant house.

Livestock Gain Shown

Livestock on the Mattison farm is now valued at $1329.50, a gain of $727 over a year ago. This stock consists of one horse, two mules, two mares, one colt, one dairy calf, four dairy cows, two beef calves, one brood sow, 16 hogs, 75 chickens, one stand of bees and four registered bird dogs.

His feed and seed inventory is $490, up $220 from a year ago. Farm equipment now is valued at $1003.14, $248 more than last year's record. The Mattisons consumed $631.95 worth of home-produced food during the wear, and now have a food inventory of $309.70.

Discussing her home improvement program, Mrs. Mattison said: "Last year we built our new home and this year we have been busy improving our yard and refinishing floors and walls. We built a brooder house, using old lumber and roofing, and fully equipped it. We also planted a home orchard and built a swing and sandlot for our son. A storm cellar also was constructed."

Typical Hill Land

The Mattison farm has been in cultivation for about 60 years. It is typical hill land and has always been classed as a cotton and corn farm.

"Until we purchased the farm two years ago and began in earnest to follow Plant To Prosper methods, very little thought was given to crop rotation, diversification, pasture and forestry on this farm," Mr. Mattison said. "When we entered the competition, we started to work with our extension agents. The high standards of Plant To Prosper have given us a sincere desire to live at home, and has made life on the farm more satisfactory and our land easier to pay for. We plan to keep on farming the Plant To Prosper way until we win the sweepstakes prize."

Mr. and Mrs. Turney, who had a total income of $1616.15 this year, made a net profit of $1068.15, their record book shows. Crop receipts accounted for $510, feed and seed for $339, livestock for $243.65, and food for $423.50. Benefit payments totaled $100.

The Turneys increased their home inventory $30 during the year, and the value of farm equipment by $80. Livestock on the farm, now valued at $984, increased $100, and includes one horse, one mule, a colt, a mare and five hogs. Feed and seed inventory totals $339, an increase of $88 over last year.

$423.50 Food Surplus

The family consumed home produced food valued at $729.20, and had a food surplus valued at $423.50. They spent only $37.50 for food purchased at grocery stores, none of which could economically be grown on their own acreage.

Home improvements during the year included papering the entire house, building new front steps new porch and ceiling two rooms. The home will be underpinned and whitewashed this month, Mr. Turney said. A new storm cellar is being built.

Five of the Turney children are members of the 4-H Club, and Mrs Turney is a member of a home demonstration club.

"The Plant To Prosper Competition has meant much to me and my family," Mr. Turney said. "We won a prize last year, and this gave us inspiration to work harder this year. In following rules and regulations of the contest, health of our children has been improved by varying our menu, and my income has been increased by practicing diversified farming."

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

GENERAL

Tuskegee, Ala., News
July 27, 1939
LETTERS TO EDITORS

Editor,
Tuskegee News,
Tuskegee, Alabama.

Dear Sir:

Dr. H. H. Bennett, chief of the United States Soil Conservation Service, stated in his address, Wednesday, July 19, at the Kudzu Jamboree held at Camp Hill, Alabama, that **"The problem of saving our soil is great, but it is my conviction that the inventive genius of the American people will solve this problem, as it has done others."**

The fullfillment of Dr. Bennett's prophecy regarding soil conservation will be proportional to the intelligent application of the principles and practices advanced by soil scientists and conservation specialists on the part of all the people who actually till the soil.

It has been estimated by the United States Soil Conservation Service that 61 per cent of all the erosion in the United States is in the South. Scientific data has revealed that among the basic causes of erosion in this section, as well as elsewhere, are: poor farming methods, topographical, chemical, physical, vegetative, climatic, and biological factors.

Taking the factor of poor farming under consideration, as this is one of the primary causes of soil waste, it is noteworthy that 70 per cent of the South's Negro population is rural. The census shows that in 1930 there was a total Negro farm population of 4,680,523 in the United States with approximately four and a half million in the South. All of these persons should be intelligent along the lines of soil conservation.

However, with due regard to other considerations, it is a notorious fact that most of these Negro farmers have the least access to adequate training, and are least conservant with the new methods and developments in soil conservation.

It is not to be conceded that this lack on the part of Negro farmers is a decisive factor in the matter of poor farming as a cause of soil erosion? . . . . and should be considered in any program of Soil Conservation?

The following are results of a survey which I, in the capacity of Professor of Soils at Tuskegee Institute, conducted among 335 Negro agricultural workers in twelve southern states. The objective of this study was that of gaining some insight into the extent of conservation knowledge among Negro agricultural workers in the South, whose activities affect all farms where Negroes are used. This survey ended in March, 1939. These are the results gained from this study among these 335 vocational teachers of agriculture, county agents, and teachers of agriculture in land-grant colleges:

a. 54 per cent had never studied soil.

b. 62 per cent have had no training in soil conservation.

c. 3 per cent stated that they did not need conservation training.

d. 94 per cent admitted that farmers in their territory asked for soil conservation information.

e. 94 per cent stated that they believed a Conservationist's aid was needed to help advance the national conservation program in their territory.

f. 82 per cent indicated that they were not getting adequate specialist help in soil conservation.

g. 77 per cent stated that they were not receiving assistance in their county from specialists in soil conservation, other than from the AAA.

h. 58 per cent stated that they had not asked for any assistance.

The findings fro mthis survey reveal the startling fact, that the very ones, the agricultural instructors among Negro farmers, who are expected to bear the brunt of the work of leading the Negro farmers in the program of soil conservation, as well as in other phases of agricultural endeavor, are themselves inadequately prepared for carrying out the conservation program.

This suggests that it is incumbent upon the United States Soil Conservation Service to see that an adequately trained Negro personnel be secured to carry on the all-important work of soil conservation, if that particular phase of the government's agricultural program is to be carried out along traditional lines.

From the above facts, it is evident that there is an imperative need for specific training in soil conservation among Negro agricultural workers in the South. This is the only direct manner in which the necessasy training and guidance can be transmitted to the Negro farmer and farm worker.

It is true that the conservation program as applied by the Soil Conservation Service has made a commendable approach to the problem of disseminating information and training among the farmers in general in the South. But the fact remains that the majority of Negro farmers and agricultural workers are not receiving the full benefit of this service which is possible through the aid of a Negro personnel, either educational or technical.

The American Negro has always made a distinct contribution in National emergencies. In this battle of erosion control, he stands ready to answer to the call of Soil Conservation.

In the other agricultural programs sponsored by the government such as, Negro Extension work, vocational agriculture, Farm Security, and other governmental agencies, Negroes are assisting in carrying farm programs to the Negro farmers. The Negros have become accustomed to Negro leadership and direction when included in the programs for the good of all the people. And it may be safely stated that these workers, because of obvious factors have been able to secure commendable responses.

The same response would be secured in the all-important program of soil conservation. It is without doubt, true that the efficient, effective, and complete execution of the National Soil Conservation program of the United States Soil Conservation Service, depends largely on reaching all the farmers, white and colored, in an effective manner.

It may be accepted as the duty of all the people, urban and rural, to seek every means to save the soil of this nation. As Chief H. H. Bennet so emphatically stated, "THE DOCTRINE OF SOIL CONSERVATION SHOULD BECOME A FORM OF RELIGION AMONG ALL THE PEOPLE." It is our duty to future generations to do what is best to effect this important task. Dr. Bennett further stated, "NO COST SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TOO GREAT IN THE EFFORT TO SAVE OUR LAND FROM EROSION."

The whole story of our duty is implied in the lines of an anonymous, but enthusiastic conservationist, who, with poetic insight, stated:

"Hordes of gullies now remind us,
We should build our lands to stay;
And departing leave behind us,
Fields that have not washed away.
Then when our boys assume the mortgage
On the land that's had our toil,
They'll not have to ask th equestion
"Here's the farm, but where's the soil?"

—Anonymous

(With apologies to Longfellow)

These comments have been advanced with the thought in mind that since the Negro is an integral part of the agricultural scene in the South, his leadership and assistance should be included without question, in the National Soil Conservation program of the United States Soil Conservation Service.

Yours respectfully,
S. J. PHILLIPS,
Field Representative,
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 25, 1939

Letters To The Editor

THE NEGRO AND SOIL CONSERVATION

Editor, The Advertiser:

Dr. H. H. Bennett, chief of the United States Soil Conservation Service, stated in his address, Wednesday, July 19, at the Kudzu Jamboree held at Camp Hill, Ala., that "The problem of saving our soil is great, but it is my conviction that the inventive genius of the American people will solve the problem, as it has done others."

The fulfillment of Dr. Bennett's prophecy regarding soil conservation will be proportional to the intelligent application of the principles and practices advanced by soil scientists and conservation specialists on the part of all the people who actually till the soil.

It has been estimated by the United States Soil Conservation Service that 61 per cent of all the erosion in the United States is in the South. Scientific data have revealed that among the basic causes of erosion in this section, as well as elsewhere, are: poor farming methods, topographical, chemical, physical, vegetative, climatic, and biological factors.

Taking the factor of poor farming under consideration, as this is one of the primary causes of soil waste, it is noteworthy that 70 per cent of the South's colored population is rural. The census shows that in 1930 there was a total Negro farm population in the United States of 4,680,523, with approximately four and a half million in the South.

All of these persons should be informed along the lines of soil conservation.

However, with due regard to other considerations, it is a notorious fact that most of these colored farmers have the least access to adequate training, and are least conversant with the new methods and developments in soil conservation.

Is it not to be conceded that this lack on the part of colored farmers is a decisive factor in the matter of poor farming as a cause of soil erosion . . . and should be considered in any program of soil conservation?

Following are the results of a survey which I, in the capacity of Professor of Soils at Tuskegee Institute, conducted among 335 Negro agricultural workers in 12 Southern States, which survey ended in March, 1939, with the objective of gaining some insight into the extent of conservation knowledge among colored agricultural workers in the South, whose activities affect all farms where Negroes are used. These are the results, gained from a study among these 335 vocational teachers of agriculture, county agents, and teachers of agriculture in land-grant colleges:

1. Fifty-four per cent have never studied soil.
2. Sixty-two per cent have had no training in soil conservation.
3. Three per cent stated they did not need any conservation training.
4. Ninety-four per cent admitted that farmers in their territory asked for soil conservation information.
5. Ninety-four per cent stated that they believed a conservationist's aid was needed to help advance the national conservation program in their territory.
6. Eighty-two per cent indicated that they were not getting adequate specialist help in soil conservation.
7. Seventy-seven per cent stated that they were not receiving assistance in their county from spe-

cialists in soil conservation, other than from the AAA.

8. Fifty-eight per cent stated that they had not asked for any assistance.

The findings from this survey reveal the startling fact, that the very ones, the agricultural instructors among colored farmers, who are expected to bear the brunt of the work of leading the Negro farmers in the program of soil conservation, as well as in other phases of agricultural endeavor, are themselves inadequately prepared for carrying out the conservation program.

This suggests that it is incumbent upon the United States Soil Conservation Service to see that an adequately trained colored personnel be secured to carry on the all-important work of soil conservation, if that particular phase of the government's program is to be carried out along traditional lines.

It is obvious from the above facts that there is an imperative need for specific training in soil conservation among Negro agricultural workers in the South. This is the only direct manner in which the necessary training and guidance can be transmitted to the Negro farmer and farm worker.

It is true that the conservation program as applied by the Soil Conservation Service has made a commendable approach to the problem of disseminating information and training among the farmers in general in the South. But the fact remains that the majority of Negro farmers and agricultural workers are not receiving the full benefit of this service.

And, it may be that this condition is a direct outgrowth of the method by which the conservation program is being introduced.

In the other agricultural programs sponsored by the government, Negro extension workers, vocational agriculture teachers, farm security workers, and others, have assisted in carrying farm programs to the Negro farmer. They have become accustomed to colored leadership and direction. And it may be safely stated that these workers, because of obvious factors have been able to secure commendable responses.

It seems that the same response would be secured in the all-important program of soil conservation. It is without doubt, true that the efficient, effective, and complete execution of the national soil conservation program of the United States Soil Conservation Service, depends largely on reaching all the farmers, white and colored, in an effective manner. It may be accepted as the duty of all the people, urban and rural, to seek every means to save the soil of this nation.

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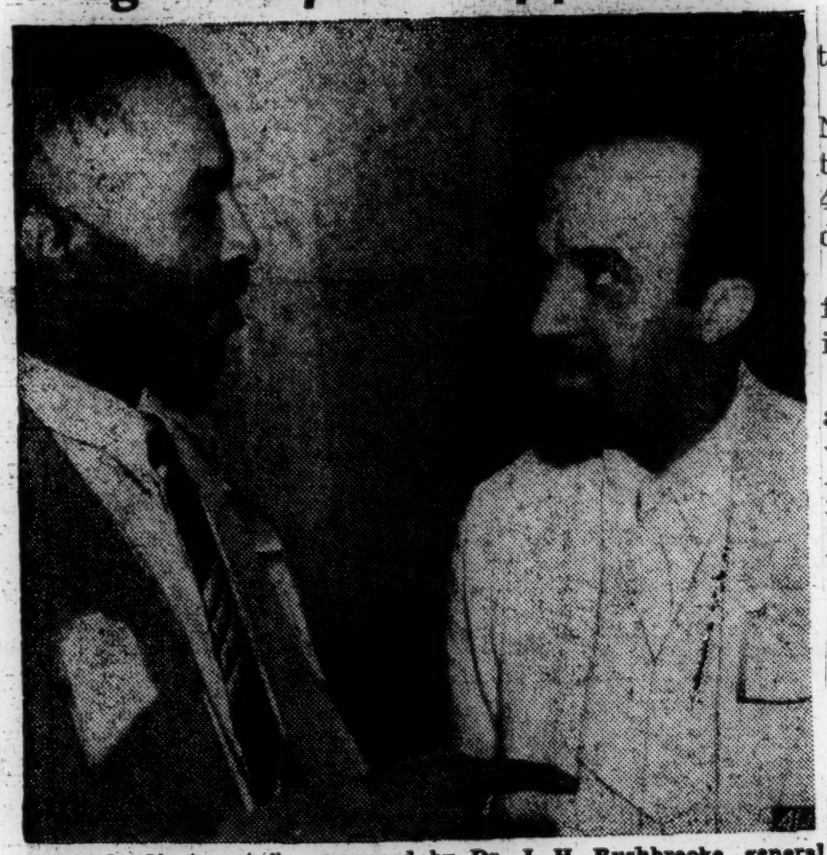
"Hordes of gullies now remind us,
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On the land that's had our toil,
They'll not have to ask the question,
'Here's the farm, but where's the soil?'"

These comments have been advanced with the thought in mind that since the Negro is an integral part of the agricultural scene in the South, he should be included in any program of improvement in the South.

S. J. PHILLIPS,
Field Representative, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
July 25, 1939

Negro Baptist 'Appeased'



"Racial adjustments," announced by Dr. J. H. Rushbrooke, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, brought expressions of satisfaction from negroes who had complained of seating arrangements at the alliance's sixth international congress in Atlanta, Ga. For one thing, signs denoting seats for white and negro delegations were ordered removed. Dr. H. M. Smith (right), Chicago negro who claimed he was ordered out of a section reserved for white people, joined Dr. R. C. Barbour (left) of Nashville, Tenn., in a statement saying that now "everything is absolutely satisfactory."

Augusta, Ga. Herald
July 20, 1939

Racial Harmony Evidenced in Baptist Registration

ATLANTA, Ga., July 20. — (AP) — Negroes working in the same registration headquarters with white persons were pointed out today by leaders as an example of racial harmony characterizing the Baptist World Alliance.

The arrangement—an unusual one for the South—found the Rev. W. A. Duncan, white chairman of registration, and his staff working over one counter, and the Rev. W. W. Weatherspoon, negro chairman, and his staff busy at another counter.

They were registering messengers (delegates) of their respective races to the sixth congress of the Alliance, opening Saturday for a week of discussion and review of Baptist activities, doctrines and policies.

In comment, Dr. J. H. Rushbrooke, of London, general secretary of the Alliance, said a "very brotherly spirit" is prevailing between the races and that he hoped its influence would be widespread.

"We are trying to express the Christian spirit in everything we are doing," said Dr. C. N. Ellis, negro spokesman. "We are preaching Jesus and He knew no race or color."

Negroes have several important program assignments for the world religious meeting. Dr. L. K. Williams, Chicago negro pastor and president of the National Baptist Convention, Inc., will preside Sunday when Dr. George W. Truett, of Dallas, Tex., president of the Alliance, delivers an address.

One of the events of the congress will be an international tea sponsored by negro Baptist churches and religious organizations Monday on the campus of Spelman College in front of a chapel given the college by John D. Rockefeller.

Doctor Truett describes the Alliance congress as "preeminently designed to magnify fraternity and inspiration." In an interview yesterday he called for a world-wide reaffirmation of the principle of the separation of church and state.

Lexington, S. C. Dispatch-News
July 27, 1939

AND THIS IN GEORGIA!

We quote from Associated Press report of the opening of the Baptist World Alliance in Atlanta, Ga.:

"Dr. Truett was introduced by Dr. L. K. Williams, a Negro, of Chicago. Doctor Williams is president of the National Baptist Convention, Inc., which has approximately 4,000,000 Negroes in its membership. He presided over today's session."

Southern white men and women in a great religious conference and that conference being presided over by a negro in Georgia!

But what could be expected when southern white men and women sat through the Philadelphia Democratic convention when negroes were given prominent parts in the program, the only protest, so far as we have heard, having been that of Senator E. D. Smith, of South Carolina, who walked out of the meeting.

Religious tolerance and political expendiency are fast breaking down the racial lines in the south and we hear little or no protest.

A DEFINITION OF COTTON

Gaston Bozeman, editor of The Evergreen Courant, grows cynical and gay as the years creep upon him. In the current number of his paper he quotes a certain definition of cotton, explaining that he knows nothing of its origin and history, but he infers nevertheless that he is in sympathy with the diatribe, which is as follows:

"Cotton is the overdraft of a seed that is planted and grown in the Southern States to keep the producer broke and the buyer crazy. The fiber varies in color and weight and the man who can guess nearest the length of a fiber is called a cotton man by the public, a fool by the farmer and a poor business man by his creditors.

"The price of cotton is fixed in New York and goes up when you have sold and down when you have bought. A buyer working for a group of mills was sent to New York to watch the cotton market and after a few days of deliberation wired his firm: 'Some think it will go up, some think it will go down. I do, too. Whatever you do will be wrong. Act at once.'

"Cotton is planted in the spring, mortgaged in the summer and left in the field in the winter."

AGRICULTURE - 1939
CONDITION OF

FLORIDA

Gainesville, Fla Sun
May 14, 1939

Negro Farm Families Of County Erect 33 New Homes

Negro farm families of Alachua County have erected 32 new homes since 1933, and have generally repaired and remodeled 28 more, it is reported by Mary Todd McKenzie, Negro home demonstration agent. She and Frank Pinder, Negro county agent, came to the county in 1933 and have stressed home improvement since that time. She is submitting a report of the home improvement work to Better Homes in America, an organizaion with headquarters at Purdue University.

By communities her rigures show the following new homes built: Jonesville 4, Rochelle 1, Waldo 5, St. Peter 6, Earlton 2, Ft. Clark 1, Pineville 5, Mt. Nebo 3, Archer 2, and Gordon 3. In addition, 163 families have built privies which meet requirements of the State Board of Health.

Mary is Florida chairman of the committee on better homes for Negroes, and Pinder is secretary.

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This new feature, we feel will serve to instruct and educate our farmers. Read it. Tell your friends about it. If you have any questions to ask, write Mr. Price. He will be glad to answer.—The Editors.

MARCH 1 IS DEADLINE FOR SPRING WHEAT INSURANCE

Growers of spring wheat who want to insure their 1939 harvests under the "all-risk" wheat crop insurance program must have their applications on file in County AAA offices by March 1, Leroy K. Smith, manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, announced today.

The deadline on spring wheat insurance applications will bring the national sign-up of applications to a close. Application-taking ended during the fall months for the various winter wheat areas, and as of January 16, a total of 278,560 applications had been reported to the Corporation from 30 states. Included in this total are approximately 71,800 applications already received in the principal spring wheat states and 206,753 from winter wheat states.

No final date has been set for receipt of premium payments from spring wheat growers, Mr. Smith said. The policies, under which growers may insure up to 75 per cent of their average yield against unavoidable losses, do not go into effect until the crop has been planted and the premium is paid.

The January 16 report of the Corporation showed that 112,583 growers, principally in the winter wheat states, had paid the premiums due on their policies. The wheat reserve of the Corporation, accumulated as growers pay in premiums, had reached 3,436,000 bushels.

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KUDZU AS FORAGE

W. H. Gregory, Alabama Extension Service, reports in the Birmingham News (January 21) that kudzu shows promise as a forage plant in Alabama. "In a six-year average at Auburn," he says, "kudzu produced a little more than two tons of hay per acre annually, with the lowest yield being more than a ton and a half and the highest yield being a little more than two tons and a half, showing it can be counted on for hay under almost any kind of weather conditions. Kudzu hay is a little richer in nutrients than alfalfa hay and is eaten greedily by all classes of farm animals, both when cured for hay and when used as a temporary pasture. It is also well adapted for use as a green feed for poultry. Where kudzu has made good growth, erosion is stopped and the soil is built up rapidly. At Auburn four crops of corn planted in an area where kudzu had been plowed up averaged 34 bushels to the acre, while corn in a companion lot, not following kudzu, made only 15 bushels. Some farmers are under the impression that kudzu will become a pest on their farms. As evidence that it will not, it has given no trouble to adjoining cultivated fields at Auburn for a period of 25 years, and it may be eradicated easily by over grazing."

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NEW PURPLE RASPBERRY

"New varieties of purple raspberries are rather uncommon, but the Geneva (N. Y.) Experiment Station has introduced one recently, the Marion," says L. M. Cooley, in Country Gentleman (February). "Marion is about a week later in fruiting season than any other purple raspberry variety of present day culture, and was selected partly for that reason . . Some consumers will put off making their purchases until too late. Plants of Marion are strong growers and hardy . . The canes are upright and sturdy and support their heavy crop well. Marion seems highly drought resistant, too. Limited experience indicates that the variety may be immune to mosaic . . Fruits of Marion are of good quality but slightly tart. This, however, is a desirable trait when they are used for preserving."

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LOOK TO FARM MARKET, WILLIAMSON TELLS GROUP

Talking to 5,000 farmers in the Fair Park Auditorium at Dallas on the occasion of the visit of A. A. Administrator Evans, Director Williamson made some pointed observations on the agricultural situation. Excerpts from that address are presented below:

In general, the American farmer's immediate ailment is economic malnutrition. He is suffering with economic anemia and a tariff hookworm . . This condition is not the result of indifference on the part of the American farmer. For the past 75 years he has been rowing against a stiff economic tide with a short income paddle.

We all know enough about cotton pach economics to know that real income, the kind that sets the standard of living, must be provided with the difference between the income and the outgo. Our available markets may be classified in three groups:

Farm or what may be termed the kitchen markets, representing that portion of our production consumed on the farm by those engaged in agricultural production.

Domestic markets, representing that portion of our crops sold to and consumed by the eighty odd million people in the United States not engaged in agricultural production.

Foreign markets which has to do with that portion of our production sold in other countries.

I wish to give emphasis to the possibilities and importance of market No. 1, the farm market. This in my opinion is at least one-third of the whole of our marketing problem. This kitchen market has a potential value as applied to Texas of $250,000,000 per year. This estimate is on the basis of there being 500,000 farm families in Texas. If every family were provided with a first rate diet with sufficient variety to be conducive to health, it would represent a store value of at least $500 per family per year. This represents a value of 6,000,000 bales of cotton at 8 cents per pound.

If and when this farm market is adequately supplied, we will find that it will require approximately 1,000,000 gallons of milk per day, 25,000,000 laying hens, 1,500,000 hogs and a minimum of 500,000 acres in home gardens and home orchards.

While considerable progress is being made in increasing production and consumption of wholesome food on the farm, there is much yet to be done. There are far too many farm families in every community in Texas existing on a 'third rate diet." According to census figures of 1935, there are approximately 10,000 farm families without chickens, 200,000 farm families without gardens, and 400,000 farm families without orchards.

Stepping up production on Texas farms to meet the needs for market No. 1 will not necessarily cause an unbalanced production or competition in production. One or two good milk cows on 100,000 cowless farms in Texas should in no way upset the dairy business. The only replacement caused would be the substitution of milk for well water.

To develop market No. 1 requires no trade agreements, no foreign bargaining, no freight rates or distribution adjustments. It will require no quotas, no domestic or other kinds of allotment, no penalties, or no telegrams to Congress. However, there are two very important essentials. They are:

A little financial resource or financial aid for many low bracket farmers as it is still against the law to steal a milk cow or pig. The

government, through the Farm Security Administration, is making possible the needed financial aid for such purposes. Also, agricultural credit at low interest is now available.

The other most essential requirement is something the government or Congress cannot provide by legislation—that is, the desire or determination on the part of the individual.

Most of the communities represented no doubt have local farm organizations. It may be an Agricultural Association, a Grange, or an in your community, it represents a challenge to you and your organized organization. To whatever degree this problem may exist the degree of success in meeting this problem will depend largely upon your leadership and cooperation with the county extension agents, plus the help of the various government agencies, particularly the FSA and the AAA.

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THE RURAL RELIEF PROGRAM

Statement by Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace, before the Hearings of the Special Senate Committee to Investigate Unemployment and Relief (under authority of Senate Resolution 36), March 1, 1938, at 10 a. m.:

This statement is intended to trace the major outlines of the Government's rural relief policy, indicating some of its results and the possible course of its development.

From its beginning, the present Administration was faced with the necessity of providing aid for more than 1,000,000 destitute farm families. Many had lost their land, their savings, and their farm equipment, and were in urgent need of food and clothing. These 5,000,000 people had suffered severely from the general business decline, but the depression was not the sole cause of their difficulties; it merely aggravated rural poverty and made the need for remedial action more acute. We were not dealing with a temporary emergency, which would be cured automatically by an upturn in the trade cycle. On the contrary, even a cursory survey of the facts made it plain that the problem grew out of certain deep-rooted maladjustments in our rural economy. The chief of these were a prolonged period of ruinous farm prices, careless and unscientific tillage practices, unsound tenure systems, a heavy burden of debt, inadequate acreage, and a long-continued wastage of our farming capital by soil erosion.

These maladjustments had been undermining the nation's agriculture for many years. We had long been familiar with their symptoms—low farm income, abandoned homesteads, a steady growth in farm tenancy. For more than a century they had compelled the United States to carry on a liberal program of rural relief, under the guise of free land. Until recent times, any farmer who lost his property through foreclosure, or whose acres were exhausted by erosion and one-crop tillage, could move on to a new homestead in the west. Today, this easy solution is no longer possible. Free land, capable of producing a decent living, has disappeared, and we have at last been forced to cope with the problem of rural poverty in a new—and perhaps more fundamental—manner.

In 1934 there appeared to be possible methods of handling this responsibility.

1. To support needy farm families indefinitely on a direct dole.
2. To help them to climb back to a self-supporting status, by means of a minimum of financial aid and technical guidance.

The first course would have meant a heavy and permanent drain on the Federal Treasury, plus the gradual demoralization of a large part of our farm population; and it never would have touched the roots of the problem.

The second method would be largely self-liquidating; it would transform relief families from liabilities into national assets; and it promised at least an approach toward a permanent solution. This obviously was the more conservative and economical plan, and it was adopted as the foundation of our rural relief policy.

This program of rehabilitation was entrusted to the Resettlement Administration, and more recently to the Farm Security Administration. In essence, it consists of making small loans to needy farm families who cannot obtain credit from any other source, and accompanying them with enough training in sound farming practices to insure the best possible use of the money.

The size of the loans naturally varies with the type of agriculture in each area, but they have averaged approximately $300 each. In general, they are just large enough to supply the family with the bare essentials for carrying on farming operations—a plow, a mule, seed, a few chickens, and other simple equipment. The loans are repayable over a period from one to five years, and they carry a five per cent interest rate.

By February 1, 1938, loans totaling $169,312,000, had been made to more than 600,000 farm families.

By all customary standards, these people were the worst possible credit risks. The Farm Security Administration operated much like the old-fashioned country banker who made "character loans." Although it took chattel mortgages on crops and farm equipment, its most important security was human equity. It had to work on the assumption that these people at the bottom of the economic heap could be trusted to pay back their debts if it were humanly possible. That assumption has been amply justified, because the overwhelming majority of borrowers were typical thrifty, hard-working American families, with all the rugged honesty of their pioneer forefathers.

As an additional protection of the Government's investment, the Farm Security Administration has followed the policy of loaning money only on the basis of sound farm and home management plans. These plans were worked out in co-operation between the borrower and the county rehabilitation supervisor. In many cases, invaluable assistance has been extended by the State Agricultural Colleges and the County Agricultural Agents. Local committees of business men and the more fortunate farmers, working without compensation have helped in the selection of applicants.

A typical farm and home management plan calls, first of all, for the raising of enough vegetables and livestock to meet the family's own subsistence needs. A canning budget is worked out to provide a balanced, adequate diet through the winter months. Acreage is set aside for the production of feed for the work animals and other livestock. The rest of the farm ordinarily is devoted to cash crops, which are diversified as much as possible under local soil and climatic conditions. The probable income and expenses are calculated, and provision is made for repayment of the Government's loan from the cash balance. Throughout the year the county supervisor is ready to give the borrower any additional assistance he may require, such as advice on soil conserving practices or on the selection of seed, livestock, and machinery.

If the borrower is over-burdened with debt, he may obtain still further help from the Farm Security Administration's local farm debt adjustment committees.

Since July, 1935, these committees have helped debtors and creditors negotiate voluntary adjustments of debt in more than 67,009 individual cases. Their mediation has resulted in scaling down the total indebtedness involved from $230,815,000 to $170,280,000—a net reduction of about $60,500,000. More than $3,897,000 in taxes has been paid to local governmental agencies as a direct result of this activity.

A fairly typical illustration of the way in which the rehabilitation program works is provided by the Montgomery family, which lives near Marston, Mo. William Montgomery is a World War veteran, and at one time was a relatively prosperous renter. Three successive crop failures wiped out all his assets, and left him with a $200 debt which was not covered by the forced sale of his team and machinery. For more than a year he and his wife and three children eked out a living by day labor, but in 1936 they were compelled to ask for relief.

Early the next year, Montgomery applied for a rehabilitation loan. Investigation indicated that he was honest, thrifty and hard working, and a loan for $605 was approved. It enabled him to buy a team, seed, tools, feed, and enough supplies to carry the family until harvest time. The local farm debt adjustment committee helped him scale down his old debts and arrange for installment payments of the balance. The county supervisor helped Montgomery rent 40 acres and lay out a diversified farming program.

By the end of 1937, the family had repaid more than half its debt to the Government, and had met all its other obligations on time. Mrs. Montgomery had canned 468 quarts of fruit and vegetables, and stored away 30 bushels of sweet potatoes and 15 bushels of turnips for winter use. A milk cow, 200 chickens, and a supply of home-grown corn meal meet most of their remaining subsistence needs. With their own labor, the Montgomerys have added two rooms to their home and built a good smoke house. This year they plan to enlarge their farming operations, renting 80 additional acres and buying another team. They hope eventually to buy a small farm of their own.

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Since July, 1935, these committees have helped debtors and creditors negotiate voluntary adjustments of debt in more than 67,009 individual cases. Their mediation has resulted in scaling down the total indebtedness involved from $230,815,000 to $170,280,000—a net reduction of about $60,500,000. More than $3,897,000 in taxes has been paid to local governmental agencies as a direct result of this activity.

A fairly typical illustration of the way in which the rehabilitation program works is provided by the Montgomery family, which lives near Marston, Mo. William Montgomery is a World War veteran, and at one time was a relatively prosperous renter. Three successive crop failures wiped out all his assets, and left him with a $200 debt which was not covered by the forced sale of his team and machinery. For more than a year he and his wife and three children eked out a living by day labor, but in 1936 they were compelled to ask for relief.

Early the next year, Montgomery applied for a rehabilitation loan. Investigation indicated that he was honest, thrifty and hard working, and a loan for $605 was approved. It enabled him to buy a team, seed, tools, feed, and enough supplies to carry the family until harvest time. The local farm debt adjustment committee helped him scale down his old debts and arrange for installment payments of the balance. The county supervisor helped Montgomery rent 40 acres of good land, and lay out a diversified farming program.

By the end of 1937, the family had repaid more than half its debt to the Government, and had met all its other obligations on time. Mrs. Montgomery had canned 468 quarts of fruit and vegetables, and stored away 30 bushels of sweet potatoes and 15 bushels of turnips for winter use. A milk cow, 200 chickens, and a supply of home-grown corn meal meet most of their remaining subsistence needs. With their own labor, the Montgomerys have added two rooms to their home and built a good smoke house. This year they plan to enlarge their farming operations, renting 80 additional acres and buying another team. They hope eventually to buy a small farm of their own.

Agriculture - A New Frontier For College Trained Men

By ALBON L. HOLSEY
Field Officer Agricultural Adjustment Administration

Such dark and forbidding pictures have been drawn of Southern agricultural conditions that all too frequently many of the brighter aspects are completely obscured.

The pressure, however, upon the Negro colleges to meet increasing demands for new outlets for their graduates, will eventually lead to a wider exploration into agricultural possibilities.

To the average student, the very suggestion of agriculture or rural life, instantly brings to their minds long hours in the field, drudgery, little or no recreation and an uncertain income which offers no economic security.

Because these conditions do exist, county, state and national governments are organizing to meet the challenge and to take steps to make farm life more attractive. Thus, in between these agencies and the farmer there is a steadily increasing number of trained workers who are helping to interpret the new objective to the farmer.

Negro colleges are adding courses in rural education in order to provide teachers for replacements and new opportunities in rural schools.

Another important group is composed of the itinerant teachers of vocational agriculture and home economics. Men and women who qualify for these positions must have at least a Bachelor of Science degree and the number of these workers is gradually increasing each year.

Under the United States Extension Service, there is still another group of these college trained men and women who are touching and influencing the lives of thousands of Negro farm families. In addition to about 450 of these county workers there are two Negro State Leaders in most of the Southern states—a man and a woman and two Negro Field Supervisors over seven and eight states respectively.

The Farm Security Administration with about twenty-three rural housing projects are increasing the number of Negro nurses; home economists and farm managers.

In each of the Southern states there are from twenty to thirty-five Jeanes Supervisors whose functions are such that they are practically assistant county superintendents of education in charge of Negro schools. These highly trained women exercise a high degree of authority in selecting teachers and in curricula making.

All of the aforementioned workers have cars for carrying on their work, for which they receive upkeep wholly or in part and their status gives them both prestige and influence in their county and state.

Passing from the official group to the opportunities which are open to private operators many examples are convincing that hard, conscientious work with an objective has its reward.

Of the 654,000 Negro farm operators in the cotton states, 122,000 are owners of 10,533,682 acres of and valued at $207,932,597. These farms vary in size from two or three acres to as much as 4,000. Most of the owners made small down cash payments or else began as tenants or renters.

What these men have done, others can and are doing. Some years ago, a farmer in Texas started with less than $100,000 and when he died three years ago he left his daughter, who is a Wiley graduate, to manage the 4,000 acre farm and she, with the aid of her mother, is doing an excellent job.

Contrast this with an offer which was made to a couple of graduates in agriculture to become managers of a large farm on a basis which assured them a larger share of the returns. They said they "didn't care to leave the city.

There are many opportunities for strong, well trained college men to organize farmers into marketing cooperatives as well as to become managers on a share basis with work stock implements, etc., provided.

Through the AAA, the government is helping the Southern farmer to increase income and yields through three types of payments and that alone gives an edge to the farmer over that which was available six years ago.

Aside from the fact that there is great need for finding new employment outlets another reason of equal importance is expressed in the recent report of National Emergency Council to President Roosevelt on Economic Conditions in the South. The report says:

"As long as the agricultural workers cannot gain assurance of a continuing existence on the farm he remains a threat to the job, the wages, and the working conditions of the industrial worker."

The urgent need to help the farmer towards that "assurance" is trained leadership and many of our colleges and universities are properly equipped to help supply that need

Third Of Nation's Big Income Farmers Are Found In South

By ATTICUS MULLIN

It was developed at Auburn this week that 37 per cent or a trifle more of the farmers of the nation with farm income of $2,000 or more, are Southern farmers.

These figures do not indicate that the Southern farmer is an object of national charity. Rather, they indicate, according to experts, that the low income Southern farmer, or so-called farmer, is the man who must be taken care of.

Commiserating with a particular Southern farmer is not altogether commiseration for Southern farmers as a whole. When it is remembered that the farmers of the nation are divided into the New England, the Northern, the Middle Western, the Western groups together with the Southern group, it appears a feather in the cap of the South that of the farmers in the higher farm income bracket 37 per cent are to be found in the South.

But in spite of the fact that 37 per cent or a little more of the farmers of the nation in the higher income brackets are Southern farmers, it is still true that the Southern farmer as a whole and when all who are labeled farmers are considered, is the poorest farmer in the land and with such a small per capita farm income that it seems ridiculous.

It was brought out at Auburn, however, that when the per capita figures are made, the method of determining the status or the occupation of Southern farmers must be taken into consideration. Under the plan in operation now every farm hand, whether day laborer or sharecropper, is listed as a farmer. The farm hand or sharecropper population is much higher per capita to farmers in the South than anywhere so the figures show that the South has a ridiculously small per capita farm income, taking the census into consideration.

The Southern farm hand and sharecropper is now coming in for attention and the Federal government is going forward with efforts to make these classes farm owners. Whether they will be able to keep and go forward with the farming on a farm they own is another question, according to farm experts.

But it is gratifying to the manufacturers who gathered at Auburn the past week in a meeting with Alabama farmers to learn that more than 37 per cent of the high farm income bracket farmers of the United States were Southern farmers. That does not indicate that agriculture in the South is at such a low ebb but it does indicate that farm hands and share croppers, who are enumerated in the census as farmers, have such a ridiculously low farm income that the whole South is indicated as a low agriculture income section.

Taken in conjunction with total farm owner population figures for the five great farming groups in the United States, New England, the North, the Midwest, the West and the South, the fact that the South has more than one-third of the high bracket farm income farmers, is an indication of the buying power of Southern farmers. Whether farm laborers and sharecroppers should be labeled in the census as farmers is another matter.

But the South is getting along pretty well, those gathered at Auburn opined and there is no particular reason for going before the nation with the tale that the Southern farmer is an object of charity.

Thirty-seven per cent of the nation's farmers who have a farm income of more than $2,000 a year are Southern farmers! A bright picture, don't you think, after so much pessimism?

Farm Prices And The Consumer

The agricultural marketing cooperatives have carried on many a battle with middlemen in an attempt to obtain better prices for producers.

But this does not mean that the marketing groups are attempting to "stick the consumer," and to force the public to pay an extortionate price for the products of the farm.

To the contrary, the desire of the marketing co-ops is to receive for their members a fairer share of the final selling price. In many instances middleman profits have been excessive. Aggressive cooperative action, by forcing middlemen to meet producers on a basis of equality, has made it possible to materially increase the farmer's income without increasing the price paid by the consumer.

No intelligent marketing management is trying to gouge the public. The wise farmer knows full well the folly of alienating those who must consume what he produces.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
October 20, 1939

It Can't Be Done?

WHEN the negro farmer is mentioned, those who dislike the South conjure up pictures of poverty and oppression, and they would have the world believe that no man can rise above the tenant system. All of us who live in the South, and know the South, know of many negroes who, by thrift and energy, have been able to make a real success of their farming operations—and now comes a first-rate concrete example in a county to the south of us.

This negro farmer is named Carroll Jones. He lives near Geiger and, as The Sumter County Journal says in telling about his success, he is an outstanding member of his race who has proved that by hard work, good management, thrift and the proper use of land, a negro farmer has as good a chance to prosper as anyone else.

Corroll leases a farm of 3,500 acres—or more than five sections of land—and he has been on the same farm for 17 years. He started out by growing cotton and corn altogether as his main crops, but as conditions changed, and cotton proved less profitable, he shifted gradually to livestock, turning more of his acreage into pasture and hay-lands, and devoting less time to cotton.

At present, Carroll has all his land in pasture and hay with the exception of about 400 acres, on which he plants about 100 acres of cotton and the rest in corn, soybeans, potatoes, etc. He usually makes about 60 bales of cotton and from 2,000 to 3,000 bushels of corn, but this year on account of unfavorable weather he is making only 40 bales of cotton and 1,500 bushels of corn.

Carroll's main cash crops are now beef calves and mule colts. He has 225 grade brood cows and eight registered Hereford bulls in his herd. He has also started a registered Hereford herd and has about 30 registered cows and heifers. There are 30 brood mares on his farm, from which he raises an average of 20 mule colts a year. Each year he sells 15 to 20 young mules. He keeps a good jack and a registered standard-bred stallion. He also has some registered Poland China hogs to raise plenty of meat to supply farm needs, and he has a surplus to sell.

Carroll Jones has cooperated fully with the AAA program and he has taken advantage of the opportunities for soil-building practices. Much of the land on this farm has been terraced; pastures have been seeded and fertilized and a number of acres of vetch planted each year under this program.

There is no hope for the great mass of landless farmers; they have no chance in the South. These are the things which the critics of the South charge. They charge that the negro has no chance; that as for a decent existence, it can't be done. It can't be done? Then ask Carroll Jones of Sumter County, Alabama.

Ownership of Farms Entails Specialization

Journal & Guide
11-18-39
Norfolk Va.

DESPITE a loss of colored farm operators and corresponding loss of acreage in Virginia from 1920-1930, Bureau of Census statistics reveal that farm owners increased by 4,117 in the five so-called depression years, 1930-1935.

It is phenomenal in view of the migration out of the state in search of economic opportunity that the colored citizens should acquire 4,000 debt-free farms at such a period.

The owners of farms contribute much to the community in which they live and enter largely into the scheme of production. They are doing their share of the work of the world.

Along with this ownership comes an increased duty to become efficient in the marketing of the products, which reach an enormous value annually, under more favorable conditions.

It is reasonable to assume that colored communities could employ modern methods of production and marketing to greater advantage. Farm agents and agricultural experts in sixteen southern states, however, are working diligently in teaching the efficient control and distribution of farm products.

Co-operation and specialization by farm owners to improve marketing methods so that their acres will become more productive will result in more benefits to the owners and to those they serve.

The Starving Farmer

• It was only a month ago that Secretary of Agriculture Wallace informed the country that about 40,000 American farmers are losing their farms every year under the sheriff's hammer.

Daily Worker
12-8-39

What happens to these farm families? What is being done to keep them from sinking into the swamp of pauperism?

New York City

The fact is that the Government farm program originally provided very little for these poorer farmers who make up the majority of the farm population. And by the time Congress got through with the farm program practically nothing was left.

On top of this the Government and the big industrial monopolists are obviously working toward an agreement whereby the huge war program of armaments will be financed by slashing not only relief to jobless workers but the farm benefits as well.

Secretary Wallace spoke to the Farm Bureau Federation the other day at Chicago. But his program of farm aid did not contain any mention of how to fight foreclosures, how to save the family farm from the banking loan sharks. Instead, he devoted his time to figuring out mainly how the rich, well-to-do farmers could receive Government checks through some form of taxation on the sale of farm products to the city folk.

It would seem that the impoverished farm families down at the bottom of the scale, who are being forgotten by the Government which is so busy preparing a war program, will have to organize and fight for their interests themselves. They will get the warm support of the American working class in this fight against poverty and economic degradation.

Farming The Race's Hope of Economic Security

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the text of an address delivered Sunday, August 6th over the "Wings Over Jordan" Broadcast from Cleveland, Ohio, by Dr. F. D. Bluford, president of the A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C.

FARMING has not held the position in society that it should, because of the general conception held by the public, that anyone can farm and that all one needs as a preparation for it are good health, a strong body and the ability to undergo hard work. For this reason, farming has not had as strong a challenge for young men and women as many other occupations and professions have had. More and more we are beginning to realize that the best mental equipment is none too good for the young man who plans to farm.



DR. BLUFORD

Agriculture is rapidly becoming more technical and scientific, calling for the best brains, the most extensive knowledge, and the highest executive ability. We are inclined more and more to agree with the author who said that farming requires more shrewdness than law, more technical training than medicine, more uprightness than theology, and more brains and resourcefulness than pedagogy.

We are entering upon a great era of agriculture development. More is being done to assist the farmer than has ever been done in the history of America. The new deal is striving to give all tenant farmers the best opportunities of farm life under the auspices of the federal and state governments. The government is offering to the farmers loans at a lower rate of interest and for a longer period of time than has ever been extended to farmers anywhere.

A GENEROUS GOVERNMENT

The Bankhead Act makes it possible for the tenant farmer to secure loans on easy terms to buy a farm. The Rehabilitation Act enables the farmer to secure loans to improve his farm and the subsistence fund enables him to buy the necessary equipment, seed and live stock, with which to begin farming. Because of the generous provisions being made by the federal government, our young men and women are turning their attention to agriculture in ever increasing numbers.

In recent years, there have sprung up in the rural sections of this country two organizations composed of more than 200,000 Negro students of vocational agriculture which are known as the 4-H Clubs and the New Farmers of America. These young people realize the possibility of service in the rural communities and the need for men and women of character and training to work out a diversified farm program. It will be through the vision and service of organizations like these that a new day will come in the agricultural development of our race.

I have been deeply impressed with what I have seen at the Seventh Annual World's Poultry Congress and Exposition, which is being held here in the City of Cleveland. Experts from more than twenty different nations are here, showing the wide extent and the great significance of the poultry industry. I am glad to see at this great exposition representatives of the New Farmers of America and the 4-H Clubs from practically every southern state who have their exhibits on display here. Among the most interesting exhibits is one showing how a Negro boy, starting nine years ago as a tenant farmer, has bought a farm, built a home with all modern conveniences and established a meat packing plant from which he sells more than 75,000 pounds of pork per year, by carrying out the program of these organizations.

LOST HOLD ON BUILDING INDUSTRY

This is a fine evidence of the opportunities offered on the farm, and of what a young man with vision, character and determination can do.

Any adequate consideration of our welfare in this country, urban or rural, must take into account our present low, economic status. This is in a large measure due to the type of work which is being continually forced upon us. Forty years ago a large part of the constructive work in the South was done by us and many buildings still stand to testify to the great skill and fine workmanship of the Negro mechanic.

But failing to keep abreast of the times and to learn the new methods in structural work, others, better trained than we, entered the field, and we lost our hold on the building industry in the South. But there is one productive source of wealth which still remains open to us and that is the farm and it is here that we must be able to compete with all comers on equal footing in character, in vision and in scientific and technical training or we shall lose what seems to be our only hope for economic security in this country.

The Farmer's Guide

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Interesting News and Helpful Hints For Those Who Till The Soil

One-Fourth of Texas' Negro Farmers Own Their Farms

TWENTY FIVE percent of the 76,000 Texas Negro farm families own their farms stated Jack Shelton, vice-extension director and state agent from College station in addressing the 2,500 Negro delegates from 53 counties who attended the 32nd annual farmers congress and short course. In his address, Mr. Shelton described several Negro farms which he has recently visited and told his audience that the test of a good farmer is the amount of food and feed supplies which he has grown and stored for year round use on the farm and in the home.

E. A. Miller, assistant to director, Southern division, Agricultural Adjustment administration, Washington, D. C., explained the new feature of the 1940 AAA program which provides payments for the family garden. In stressing the AAA benefit payments he told the group that "you cannot have diversified farming until you have diversified thinking."

President W. R. Banks welcomed the visitors. He commended the Negro home demonstration agents for their excellent service in teaching economical short-cuts in household management and praised the Negro mother for her ability to "stretch her meagre income in order to feed and clothe her children." Reports showed 84 syrup mills owned and operated in the state by Negro farmers and last year's production was 164,780 gallons of sorghum syrup, and 14,767 gallons of cane syrup.

In the pecan industry Negro farm agents instructed farmers to approve 3,900 pecan trees, and in meat production 1,110,000 pounds of meat were cured and smoked. This was in contrast to the record seven years ago when the meat projects were started and the farmers only cured 26,000 pounds. William S. Hart, 18-year-old 4-H club boy from Bay City, was awarded a gold medal and $25 in cash for all-round 4-H club work. From his cotton, corn, pigs and jersey cows, Hart earned last year a net profit of $443.08 and has saved enough to enter the freshman class at Prarie View college next month.

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Better Production, Use of Field Crops Among Demonstrations

Among the demonstrations carried on for men and boys were: sub-irrigated gardens, better production and uses of field crops, making and repairing farm implements, sanitation and feeds for live stock and poultry and concrete

work. These demonstrations were under the direction of John H. Williams and H. S. Estelle, district agents.

One of the unusual demonstrations for women was the use of milo maize for break-making. The maize was ground with an inexpensive hand mill and following a tested recipe delicious muffins were made and served. Other demonstrations for women included pickle-making, canning and bottoming chairs, food preparation and needle work.

One of the outstanding features at the State Summer Conference for Negro teachers of vocational agriculture at Fort Valley, Ga., Industrial School was the awarding of the Herty State Forestry Prize for distinctive achievement in school and home forestry projects. This prize was established by the late Georgia scientist, George Herty, and is awarded each year by the Georgia Forestry Association to both white and Negro teachers carrying on forestry instruction and demonstrations as a part of their agricultural programs.

First prize this year in Negro forestry work went to Benjamin Anderson, principal and teacher of vocational agriculture at the Brooks County Training School, Dixie, Georgia. Anderson bears the distinction of being the winner of a Herty Forestry prize three consecutive years—first prize two years ago; second prize last year; and first prize again this year. The second prize was awarded to Raleigh Macon, principal and teacher of agriculture at the Nunn Industrial School, Leslie, Georgia.

* * * *

Use of Liming Materials Cuts Fertilizer Acidity

Commercial fertilizers are less acid than formerly, since research showed how to use liming materials, chiefly dolomite, to make nonacid forming fertilizers. The use of increasing amounts of synthetic nitrogen in place of organic nitrogen, which is now much more expensive, tends to make fertilizer acid, if no neutralizing material is used. Much research on acid fertilizer has been carried on in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Bureau reports that in 1929 the average fertilizer was so acid that it needed the equivalent of 115 pounds of calcium carbonate—limestone—to neutralize the effects on the soil of a ton of fertilizer. By 1933, with the increasing use of synthetic nitrogen, an equivalent of 152 pounds of limestone was needed. Then many manufacturers started using liming materials in the place of sand filler. **Now the average fertilizer is only slightly acid, requiring the equivalent of about 20 pounds of limestone to neutralize it.**

FEW NEGRO FAMILIES IN 'BACK TO FARM' MOVEMENT

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — A "back to the farm" migratory movement, part of a study made by the Research Division of the WPA, shows that few Negroes are taking part compared with the number of Negroes who migrated from the farms to the cities during the 1920-30 era.

Negroes took a large part in the great migratory movement from rural areas during the 10 years referred to. According to the report, one in every nine migrants from rural areas was a Negro. Moreover, many of the whites who migrated were old people, retiring from farms to neighboring towns and villages. It was largely whole families of Negroes that migrated, in what resembled a mass depopulation of the rural districts. And the Negro migrants moved chiefly from southern farm areas to large northern cities. They were not retiring, but seeking work and a better livelihood.

Negro and white youth are both bottled up in rural areas where there are few jobs, and inadequate opportunities for getting an education. It is in the rural districts in which the birthrate is highest that economic conditions are usually poorest.

When there are jobs to be had in the big cities, migration from these rural regions relieves the strains says the report. But under depression conditions, migration alone offers no solution for the problems of rural areas.

The study was compiled from surveys made among 22,000 rural families in southern cities and was prepared by C. E. Lively of the University of Missouri and Conrad Tauber, U. S. department of agriculture, bureau of agricultural economics.

The Farmer's Guide

Interesting News and Helpful Hints For Those Who Till The Soil

Lawndale, N. C. NFA Chapter Adds Pure Bred Stock To Community

Journal and Guide 6-3-39

A SURVEY made by the New Farmers of America of Lawndale, N. C. under the supervision of F. M. Pullen, local Adviser of the chapter, reveal that there is a great need for more and better livestock in the community and especially poultry and swine.

Norfolk, Va

With that fact in mind, at the beginning of the school year the chapter worked out and set up a number of objectives to be accomplished during the school year. These objectives were centered around the immediate needs of the community. Improve poultry and swine headed the list of objectives.

* * * *

The poultry objective was undertaken by constructing a brooder-house on the school's property, and two oil-burner incubators were put into operation by the cooperation of one of the local farmers. Eggs were collected from the different homes and taken to A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C. and exchanged egg for egg. Those eggs were hatched in the incubators and the chickens brooded on the campus by the N. F. A. students. There were about seven hundred pure-bred chickens put in the community by the aid of the chapter. This not only added a number of better chickens to the community, but it gave students some very worth-while information in regards to hatching and caring for baby chicks.

* * * *

Hog By-Products Yield Home Made Laundry and Toilet Soaps

The swine enterprise was carried out on an individual basis: There were seven pure-bred hogs of the Poland China and the Hampshire breeds added to the community for breeding purposes and the two males of the two breeds will be used to improve the grade hogs of the local community. And for further information in regards to purchasing pure-bred Poland China pigs write Samuel Dillard or J. Y. Harshaw, care of Douglas High School, Lawndale, N. C., and for Hampshires write A. D. Belton, the same address.

* * * *

M. E. Dean, Negro county agent in Louisville, Mississippi, has inaugurated an annual county-wide fruit-vegetable show. A banner is awarded to the community placing the best exhibit and all the products bring a fancy sale price at the display. In urging the farmers in Lee County, Alabama, to grow surplus corn, John A. Kitchens, county agent, and Miss G. M. Williams, home demonstration agent, in a joint letter say: "Corn is now selling for around 50 cents a bushel but when fed to chickens, cows and hogs will pay you $1.00 per bushel."

27,022 persons attended 1938-39 Negro farmers meat shows in Texas. In most instances these shows were sponsored by the local white Chambers of Commerce. An added feature of the shows this year were exhibits of home-made laundry and toilet soaps from by-products of the hog.

* * * *

Activities of the home demonstration work in Hillsborough County, Florida, include distribution of 878 packages of garden seed and the participation of 67 4-H Club girls in the annual Strawberry Festival Parade. Miss Floy Britt is the agent. In order to supplant his cash crop, Scott Wilson, Negro farmer residing near Ruston, Louisiana, recently purchased a few cows and increased his feed crops. E. F. Purvis, Parish Agent reports that during 1938 Mr. Wilson sold $286.00 worth of milk besides having ample supply for home use.

Cotton Fights Back: *Good Advertising Spearhead In War*

ducation And Legislative Campaign Is Drafted By Champions

In this the last of a series of articles on the National Cotton Council, Hodding Carter, Mississippi publisher, describes the advertising and legislative objectives of the first organization of all the raw cotton interests in the Cotton Belt.

BY HODDING CARTER

Research is not the method by which the Cotton Council expects to attain the quickest benefits, for research is long-drawn and rarely inspires the public; and its results are often impractical from a marketing standpoint.

Rather, the Cotton Council will first emphasize the promotional and legislative approaches. A national advertising program, of magnitude approximating that of the larger American manufacturers, is considered as being of immediate value. Through every trick medium the American public will be told about cotton, its by-products, its value, its durability, its stylishness, its importance in the nation's economic life.

And don't be surprised if this advertising includes "primer copy" on the tariff and reciprocal trade problems.

"I contend that one may sell anything on earth in existence or out of existence at least once by appropriate advertising," Oscar Johnston said at the Memphis meeting. "Sales may be thereafter continued only if the wares advertised have merit and the cost thereof is commensurate with its intrinsic value, or its desirability by reason of its appeal to one or more of the human senses. We were taught years ago that if a man built a better mouse trap than other men, the world would beat a path to his door though he lived in a wilderness.



COTTON IS FOOD TO HER—The welfare of the Negro in the South is bound up in cotton, and cotton's future welfare is dependent upon increased consumption. The National Cotton Council is striving to better the lot of both through its program for reform.

Mousetrap Advertising

"I doubt if this was ever true. I know that it is not true today. One might build the best mouse trap on earth, and might live and have his shop in one of our great cities, but if he didn't tell the world about it by appropriate advertising, he would find the public passing his door without a glance at his wares, beating the way to the door of someone selling, as the result of proper advertising, a very inferior mouse trap at a much higher price.

"The success of the business of merchandising depends upon two factors: first, proper advertising; second, having goods of merit offered at a price commensurate with their value or desirability. The success of our industry is directly dependent upon the selling of the

products of cotton and cottonseed to the consuming public of the world.

"There are many shining examples of the value of advertising, bearing in mind at all times that the ultimate success is due to the fact that back of the claims made by advertising there are desirable and valuable wares. I am strong in the belief that we can increase the consumption of American cotton tremendously in the United States by intensive advertising. The products of cotton and cottonseed have genuine merit, they have intrinsic value. I think it would be inadvisable to expend considerable sums merely advertising cotton as a commodity, but believe that by specific advertisement of the products much can be accomplished."

Supporting Trade Pacts

Then, by awakening support of trade pacts, the Cotton Council hopes to do something with the shattered foreign markets for American cotton. Cotton men, whether producers, middlemen or shippers, are usually supporters of a low tariff policy, and the simplest of their arguments is that they have to buy in a protected market and sell in an open market. Oscar Johnston, an ardent admirer of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, believes that the Tennessean has made through his reciprocal trade agreements the greatest contribution to the nation's economic welfare of any man now in public life.

"I believe that every student of international trade, both in America and abroad, is in agreement that we are losing foreign markets for agricultural commodities because of unsound, unfair and inequitable tariff restrictions, trade barriers and international commerce policies," he has told the National Council, and cotton growers and economists of the nation on a hundred occasions.

"It is important to our industry that we have an intelligent and selective downward revision of the tariffs fixed by the Hawley-Smoot tariff act. I do not wish to be classed as an advocate of free trade. I realize that much of our industrial development has been brought about because of the existence of the tariff. I believe that an indiscriminate lowering of general tariffs might result in serious economic disturbance and displacement; but I am certain that the American consumer has been bled white through the tariff's instrumentality for the benefit of industries which neither need nor are entitled to the type of protection and indirect subsidy they are now getting by virtue of the tariff laws.

Educational Campaign

"This problem should be attacked by a widespread educational campaign throughout the entire nation, and by direct contacts and conferences with American consumers throughout the land. I charge that less than 15 per cent of all of America's organized labor derive any benefit directly, or indirectly, from our tariff system. Such an educational campaign can only be carried on by a united industry. The tariff problem should be attacked in the halls of Congress, through the public press, through a general, widespread, educational campaign, through conferences with industrial and labor leaders."

But proposals for tariff revision make a long-range objective, and one clouded by changing administrations, international tangles and the dictators' doctnine of self-sufficiency. Not long-range are other targets of the Cotton Council.

"Take road building, for instance, which is in considerable part a political matter. Oscar Johnston can demonstrate to state and federal lawmakers that the use of cotton in hard-surfaced roads is practicable. A half-mile stretch at Scott was laid in 1935 and without repairs is in splendid shape today. The council's detailed statement of purpose includes insistence upon "a thorough survey to ascertain the value of cotton as material for use in the construction of certain types of roads and highways, and if such use be found practical and economical, to insist that the Federal Bureau of Public Roads, and the several state highway commissions make use of cotton for this purpose."

Cotton For Roads

You are puzzled, perhaps, as to how cotton can be used in road making. So were many of the delegates of the Cotton Council's meeting. But one visitor from afar was C. T. Revere, economist of Laird, Bissell & Meeds, of New York City. And Mr. Revere calls cotton roads his "hobby."

"A number of years ago they built a cotton road down where I live in New Jersey," he explained. "It has been down four years. There have been ice ruts five or six inches deep, and the rest of the roads next to the cotton road have exploded into tiny volcanoes. So you can see what that means in the North with our severe climatic conditions. The use of cotton roads would save the taxpayers of this country plenty. I believe we could say it would save them enough to pay of one-fifth of the interest on our national debt.

"I don't believe it is up to me or the Cotton Textile Institute to give you all the details of the construction of cotton roads. You take an ordinary country road, with just a sound, dry base of gravel or clay, and you grade it, crown it and scarify it—and you can do that for $200 or $300 a mile. Then you put hot tar or asphalt on that and let it impregnate for 24 hours. You lay the cotton fabric—the 12 by 12 mesh fabric — and put on 5/8-inch mesh stone an inch deep. Then you compact with a five-ton roller, make another application of hot tar and put on the fines; compact that and you have your road."

Vast Field

There are 2,000,000 miles of secondary roads which could be treated with six bales of cotton to the mile. That would mean the use of 12,000,000 bales. And not even the South is doing anything about it yet, although the Department of Agriculture has lately offered fabrics for test use in road construction.

The Cotton Council's legislative activities will also be directed against such discrimination against cotton products as that by which the government, at the insistence of the astute dairy organizations bans the use of margarine in governmental institutions and various states place heavy taxes upon cottonseed products. Lobbying may be a fearful word, but it's worse when you can't lobby back. So the Cotton Council will be prepared to level way in Washington and in the several states for such diverse legislation as reduction of maritime rates, modification of freight rates now discriminating against Southern shippers, tariff revisions, cotton road building and reduction of the tax on margarine.

This three-sided program totals up to a large order. But cotton is also large, and desperate. Its voice, said Oscar Johnston, is as low as its price and as soft as its lint. For it to be amplified a thousand fold, a single coordinating organization is necessary. There has never been such an organization before. Now it exists in the National Cotton Council. Under Oscar Johnston, of Mississippi, it is heading for that battle which may ultimately mean the difference between ruin and a modicum of prosperity for the 36,000,000 black and white tenants, the planters, the professional men and the merchants of an area of great and unfilled promise.

Fayette, Ala., Alabamian
June 8, 1939

He Thinks He Hasn't A Worry . .



. . . But the welfare of the Negro in the South is inextricably bound up in cotton, just as cotton's future welfare is dependent upon increased consumption. The Cotton Council hopes to better the lot of both through its three-edged program.

The Farmer's Guide

Interesting News and Helpful Hints For Those Who Till The Soil

These excerpts from the Bertie County, N. C. farm demonstration agent's report for 1938 will be of interest to farmers in Eastern North Carolina and Virginia:

"Last year to reach her soil building goal, Mrs. Classie Bond, Rt. 1, Windsor, N. C., was required to plant three-fourths acre of hairy vetch. In the spring of 1938 this vetch was turned under. She was told by the county agent to set stakes at the points where the vetch started, and to stop to see if there would be any difference in this year's crop production. This was done and Mrs. Bond planted peanuts on the entire plot including the three-fourths acre where the vetch was turned under.

"During the summer the stakes were misplaced in some manner, but upon being asked the results, Mrs. Bond stated that the stakes were not necessary to determine where the vetch was as the peanuts were there to tell the story as they were much better on this particular spot than anywhere else. Such results are being found in all sections of the country. So much so, until most of the farmers are becoming "cover crop conscious" and are trying to keep Bertie County green all winter as may be seen today."

Georgia State College Makes Valuable Experiments For Farmers

B. F. Hubert, president of the Georgia State College has just issued a progress report on experiments being carried on at the school with the view of achieving "greater prosperity on our farms here in theSoutheast. The college is attempting to find the answer to the question of satisfactory money crops for the Southeast," Mr. Hubert explained. "It is also seeking ways in which the farmer may carry on his farm business at minimum expense and receive maximum results.

During the last three years ramie has been grown on the college farm. This experiment is being carried on in cooperation with the Georgia Experiment Station at Griffin and is an effort to show how the coastal lands may be economically used in growing ramie. Experiments already have been made in an attempt to determine if cloth can be produced from this product as cheaply as from cotton. Ramie has a much stronger fiber than cotton. This plant is easily grown on low land. Capitalists in New York and Florida are actively interested in the outcome of this experiment.

"An acre of land at the college is also given over to a peanut experiment project which is being carried on in cooperation with the Georgia Experiment Station. | Eleven varieties of peanuts have been planted in an effort to determine that most prolific strain of peanuts for the coastal territory.

* * * *

Experiments With TVA Fertilizers Carried On For Four Years

"The college is entering into its third year of experimentation with sea island cotton or long staple cotton. An attempt is being made to develop a strain of cotton of the best long staple variety that will require a shorter growing season and produce a larger yield. Each stalk on this acre is checked and yields from the same are carefully recorded. Each year, improvement is shown through this selective process. Last year the college checked its yields on sea island cotton on the college farm against cotton grown in the Piedmont area at the Log Cabin center in Hancock county. The experiment showed that sea island cotton can be grown in high altitudes.

"The experiments with the TVA phosphate fertilizer have been carried on at the college for four years in an effort to find out the effect of different applications of phosphates on yields of corn, oats, potatoes, forage crops, truck crops and permanent pastures. Much valuable information is available for farmers at the college in the use of phosphates on the various farm crops.

"The experiment in the feeding of poultry is an effort to find a substitute for some of the commercial feeds that farmers might use. Several pens of hens are now being fed on different rations in an effort to determine how the farmer might best utilize his corn and other products for best poultry production. An experiment is also being conducted in the feeding of hogs and beef cattle. Here again, efforts are being made to find a feed which the farmer already has on his farm that will stimulate maximum growth at minimum cost. Hereford beef cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs are being used for these experiments.

A Crown For King Cotton!

Cotton is king, of course. But it has been a bad decade for kings. In the turmoil that has sent many a monarch running to cover the lord of Dixie's economic kingdom has been pretty well battered. Cotton has suffered from world disturbances, from inertia in Dixie, from an antiquated agricultural system, from ambitious competitors, from high tariffs within and without the borders of these United States. Cotton, too, has suffered from a false modesty that has held it back while upstart industries have forged ahead.

But in large measure King Cotton's plight can be blamed on the men who have grown and processed cotton and sold it for what they could get in the markets of the world. For the people and the section which profit most or suffer most from the plight of cotton have been backward, unimaginative, downright lazy. There are many problems to be solved, many remedies to be adopted, before cotton will reach its rightful place in the economic scheme of this fast-moving, modern world. And the people who must solve these problems are the people who live in the South, who grow cotton, invest in cotton, gin cotton, ship cotton and make cotton into hundreds of valuable articles.

The National Cotton Council of America is the first great determined organization of private citizens ever to tackle the cotton problem from the ground up, fully realizing the most minute problems and the most bulky handicaps. If human beings can work out their own problems, if men actually can master their own economic fate, then something can be done for the cotton kingdom by the National Cotton Council of America.

C. L. Walton, director for the council's activities in Alabama and Florida has called on Alabamians to do their part in restoring cotton as a real money crop and as an important asset to the South. He reminds Alabamians of the 10-point program the council has mapped out.

It is the hope of the Cotton Council that the Southern product can be helped by an intensive advertising campaign through all available media; by improving the product itself from seed to finished article; by making people cotton-conscious; by urging the use of cotton where substitutes now are being used; by expanding foreign markets; by scientific research to develop new uses; by cooperation with all cotton-boosting agencies; by federal and state legislation seeking to encourage use of cotton and removing discriminations against it; by seeking modification of freight rates and by demanding that competitive materials bear similar taxes to cotton.

Praises Farmers Of Southland; Offers Remedy For Low Income

ST. LOUIS, Mo., July 28—Praise for Race farmers of the South and a frank discussion of the causes and some proposed remedies for low income of Southern agriculture were high spots of an address delivered here recently by Dr. I. W. Duggan, director, Southern Division Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Speaking before a large and appreciative audience which greeted him at the morning service at Lane Tabernacle C.M.E. church, Dr. Duggan was welcomed by Dr. Noah W. Clark, pastor, who told the guest speaker that "we who live in this section of the country are deeply interested in the progress of our people in the South."

In speaking of the fear which some persons have of the changes in our economic structure which have been initiated by our Government, Dr. Duggan said:

"If we succeed in solving our economic problem, I am not afraid of a change in our form of government. If the average factory worker has steady work at good pay, he will not be lured either by Fascism or Communism. If the farmer gets a reasonable price for the things he raises, he will oppose radicalism. But we cannot expect men to give their support to a system of government which does not give them an opportunity to earn a decent living. We must provide that opportunity if we are to have a stable national life. To do so we must solve some fundamental problems. The federal government is the only agency which has the resources and the power to cope with many of these problems. Among them, as I see it, is the farm problem."

Of the 654,000 Race farmers in the cotton producing states, Dr. Duggan paid tribute for their cooperation with the Government's Farm Program and added:

"Most students of the problems of the Negro farmer have, I believe, overlooked factors in these farm programs which have proved beneficial to him and will prove more beneficial as time goes on. These programs have centered the attention of the country upon the South and the sharecropper. The sharecropper has been in the South since the Civil War. The AAA programs did not create the tenancy problem or the race problem. We have had them for years, and not until we began national programs for agriculture did the country awaken to the situation among the sharecroppers and the farmers in our backward areas. The programs have been responsible for hundreds of meetings which were attended by Negro farmers.

"The Negro farmer has had an opportunity to learn fundamental facts and to examine his own situation in their light. To a large extent, these programs have brought the Negro farmer out of the eddy in which he lived and back into the current of action and vigorous thought. The programs have even called attention of some planters to the plight of their own tenants. I know of a health clinic in Arkansas which grew out of the desire of a planter to have his tenants use the land taken out of cotton to grow more food and feed for home use.

"I am certain that these programs have helped dissipate race prejudice. Any movement which brings Negro farmers and white farmers together to discuss common problems is bound to result in a better understanding. The programs have caused many of us to have a better realization of the contribution that Negro farmers have made to Southern agriculture. We have come to realize that the South cannot progress until all its people progress, whether they are landowners or tenants, white or colored. The need for conservation of human resources is just as great as the need for conservation of soil resources."

U. S. Falls, local fish merchant and vice president of the St. Louis Negro Business League, presented A. L. Holsey, field officer, Agricultural Adjustment Administration and secretary, National Negro Business League, who in turn presented Dr. Duggan to the audience.

TRAGEDY IN THE BLACK BELT

These are bitter days for the farmers in the river bottoms of the Alabama and Cahaba, and the Red Cross is taking a necessary hand. Representative Sam Hobbs of Selma told The Advertiser yesterday that he thought the federal government should immediately take a heavy hand, and he is devoting his vast energies to this worthy cuase. In a comparatively small area of Alabama—a fertile, beautiful area—planters and their tenants have seen the fruits of their labor for a season utterly destroyed. Nothing will be left to pay debts, much less to buy new comforts and luxuries. There must be found a way to alleviate the sufferings of these innocent, helpless, high-spirited people. Uncle Sam cannot, must not, let them down in such a crisis. Red tape must be cut to release greenbacks for the aid of these victims of a capricious Mother Nature.

The entire Alabama delegation in congress will no doubt cooperate with Sam Hobbs in an effort to obtain immediate easement of this distressed area.

The editor of The Selma Times-Journal wrote better than he knew when on Friday he composed a little editorial entitled, "A Negro and His Hounds."

Said he:

> If you see a Negro paddling along a wet highway with two or three hounds on a leash, it is safe to assume that they are refugees from the flooded river bottoms. Although he may depart from home so hastily that even rubber boots (often standard equipment in flood areas) are forgotten, a rural Negro never leaves his hounds behind.
>
> This is not at all unnatural, for a good hound dog can give a Negro more real fun from the chase than big game hunters find in Africa, beside being constant contributors to the family larder with welcome additions of meat to a diet that too often becomes monotonous.
>
> It is a happy faculty of the country Negro that he never "gets so low" that a run behind the musical belling of his hounds cannot help him to forget his troubles. Make a Negro happy and you make him your friend, so reports of drowned hounds are rare even where floods are most frequent.
>
> Perhaps a homeless Negro paddling in the rain is a pitiable sight, but if he has his hounds along and is headed for Red Cross rations the world is not entirely dark to his way of thinking.

This is a good story and an incisive commentary, but it is also a good document to lay before the Red Cross and Uncle Sam. In a simple and philosophical way it tells the story of stark tragedy in the river bottoms of one of earth's garden spots.

It remains only to be added that the owner of the plantation from which the Negro and his hounds are fleeing, will harvest no corn and but little cotton. He must yet face his banker and tell him the sad story. He must default on this year's payment on his mortgage. There will be no "Christmas" for his tenants, and none for him but for the fact that under Black Belt custom he can usually borrow a little more money to meet holiday demands—and to buy rations for his bewildered tenants.

Occasionally a plantation owner makes some money, usually he enjoys a relatively high standard of living, but most of the time he just puts up a bold front. He preserves his dignity as a country gentleman, but often he defaults on the interest he owes.

The financial backer of a landowner understands that he must take "the long view" in extending the loan requested, for there are bad years and good years, the good years being in the minority. But bankers and fertilizer manufacturers have said to The Advertiser: "A farmer may sometimes be ornery and hard-headed, and not always duly alert to his opportunities. But you may say this for him: He'll pay out if you give him time! Farmers are often slowpokes in their payments, but they are rarely swindlers. They take their debts seriously, because their debts usually are associated with disaster. But farmers are good risks, taking them by and large. They'll grumble, but in the end they will pay in full."

It is because of his sense of honor and faith in himself and his country that the American farmer somehow manages to keep this country going.

And so, when farmers, as often they are, are devastated by the forces of nature, all of us parasites that live on them should come promptly to their aid.

LETTERS FROM WORLD READERS

HOLSEY THANKS WORLD; SAYS MORE FARMERS READING NEWSPAPERS

TO THE EDITOR:

As we bring to a close our activities for the year 1938 and enter upon our new responsibilities for 1939, I am reminded of the fine support which the Negro press has given to the various agricultural programs.

News releases from my office have been widely published and many of the papers have made editorial comments on the agricultural situation which have helped the whole cause. My observations in 1938 convince me that despite many local inequalities which exist, Negro farmers have made substantial progress and in addition to the activities of Negro Extension Workers, Vocational Agriculture Teachers, Jeanes' Supervisors, etc. the Negro press has been a factor in bringing about this improvement.

More Negro farmers are reading Negro newspapers than ever before which is convincing evidence that the Negro press is rendering a real service in helping to improve conditions in the rural areas. The gains we have made in 1938 will be strengthened in 1939 if we are all vigilant and cooperative.

May I take this opportunity to express to you my personal thanks for the cooperation which you have given our office during the past year and very earnestly solicit your continued cooperation during the coming year.

Yours very truly,
Albon L. Holsey
Field Officer, AAA
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

WPA Sympathizes With Farm Youths

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—(AP)—The WPA reported today that there were too many young persons on American farms to support themselves comfortably in agricultural pursuits.

"Opportunities for young men in rural areas to acquire their own property and economic independence have materially decreased in recent years because of a [illegible] youth," research employes said in a 167-page booklet published by the Work Relief Organization.

Between 1920 and 1930, the report said, an average of 200,000 young persons were forced to migrate from farms to the cities to find employment.

"Since 1930," it continued, "rural youth have moved to urban areas in considerably smaller numbers.

"It is estimated that nearly 4,000,000 will migrate to cities between 1939 and 1940 while more than 1,000,000 others will remain home to become a surplus in rural areas.

"This increase would bring the number of young people on farms and in mining and lumbering camps and small industrial villages to more than 10,000,000."

Corrington Gill, assistant WPA administrator, said these figures indicated the need for increased efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations to provide more adequate training and assistance to rural young people dependent on the Works Progress Administration.

Five-Point Program For Dixie Asked

Southern Leaders Voice Appeal For Business And Farm Betterment

Rate Fight Balked

Atlanta Conference Says South Not Begging But Deserves Legislative Help

ATLANTA, GA., Jan. 15—(AP)—Southern leaders representing the fields of education, business, journalism, labor and state government offered a five-point program today for advancement of the South's economic position.

Citing the report of the national emergency council, which caused President Roosevelt to refer to the South as the nation's No. 1, economic problem, the group asserted that improvement of the South's business, educational and health facilities was vital to national progress.

The group was called together by Mark Ethridge and Barry Bingham, general manager and president, respectively, of The Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal and Times, and State Representative Francis P. Miller, of Fairfax, Va. It elected Ethridge as its chairman.

For "immediate objectives," the group said, the region must look to legislative action in Congress and State legislatures. However, the report insisted, "in addressing the Federal government, the South is not in the position of a mendicant; she asks nothing to which she is not entitled; she asks nothing which is not for the ultimate national good."

In recommandations, the group listed first the problem of agriculture and urged "continued expansion of the rehabilitation work of the farm security administration to place farmers in the lowest income group on the agricultural ladder, and to provide the authorized appropriations for the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act to offer further opportunities to farmers of more advanced qualifications."

Also suggested was continuation of the Federal housing program, with equivalent appropriations provided for rural and urban rehousing.

Calling the problem of public health "acute" in the South, the group endorsed the program of the national health conference for Federal cooperation with states and counties in extending medical aid, and suggested special consideration for rural areas high in medical needs but low in financial resources.

Education Work Urged

As a third point, the group recommended appropriation of Federal funds for equalization of educational opportunities in all states. "The principles governing the appropriation of these funds should be equitable distribution between the races and Democratic distribution among the states, according to the economic ability of the states and the number of children per adult population, with state control over administration and curriculum."

The group endorsed the Federal legislative and administration program for guaranteeing the rights of labor, and urged "continued application of the fundamental principles on which the program is based," including adequate wage standards and the principle of collective bargaining.

Criticizing differentials in freight rates between the North and South the group urged amendment by Congress of the Interstate Commerce act to equalize rates by "eliminating any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any region" which might hinder development of such region.

"Obviously," said the report," not all that should be done can, or will, be done by the Federal government. The suggestions we have made presuppose continuing attack by the states upon economic and social problems . . ."

State legislation, the group urged, should include co-ordination of government activities for ultilization of land resources, renovation of legislation affecting owner-tenant relationships, extension of Social Security benefits, guarantee of civil liberties and rights of labor, and abolition of the poll tax.

Alabamians in Group

The group, named Mark Ethridge, general manager of The Louisville, Ky., Courier-Journal and Times, as its chairman. Others who signed the report included Barry Bingham, president of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times; R. Preston Brooks, dean of the University of Georgia School of Commerce; State Senator I. J. Browder of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Noel R. Beddow, counsel for the steel workers organizing committee, Birmingham, Ala.; Dr. Oliver C. Carmichael, chancellor of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; Tarleton Collier, columnist of The Atlanta Georgian; Virginius Dabney, editor of The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch; James C. Derieux, editor of The Columbia State, Columbia, S. C.; Charles W. Edwards, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.; Superior Judge Blanton Fortson, of Athens, Ga.; Julian Larose Harris, editor of The Chattanooga, Tenn., Times; George Watts Hill, Durham, N. C., businessman; Col Leroy Hodges State comptroller, of Virginia, Richmond; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, of Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.; Edward McQuistion of the Arkansas State Department of Education, Little Rock; Ralph McGill, executive editor of The Atlanta Constitution.

Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, of the Textile Workers organizing committee, Atlanta; Dean Walter J. Marherly, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., State Representative Francis P. Miller of Fairfax, Va.; William Mitch of the United Mine Workers, Birmingham, Ala.; H. Clarence Nixon, field chairman for the Southern Conference of Human Welfare, New Orleans; Dr. Howard W. Odum, director of the institute for research in social science, University of North Carolina; James S. Pope, assistant managing editor of The Atlanta Journal; Professor T. Lynn Smith of Louisiana State University; Dean T. S. Staples of Hendrix College, Conway, Ark.; Professor George F. Thomas of the University of North Carolina; Miss Josephine Wilkins, executive secretary of the Georgia Citizens' Fact-Finding movement; and William Winter, Charlotte, N. C., attorney and news commentator.

Price Fixing For Farmer Supported

Proposal Would Double Agriculture's Income, Senate Committee Told

Wallace Fighting It

But Agriculture Secretary Once Backed Program, Plan's Champion Avers

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.— (AP) —A farm leader asked Congress today for government price fixing on nearly all agricultural products.

Edward E. Kennedy, of Kankakee, Ill., first witness for advocates of a "cost-of-production" farm bill, told the Senate agricultural committee that his proposal would raise the cash income of farmers from its present level of about $7,000,000,000 to $15,000,000,000 annually.

(The aim of the program is to fix prices in such a way as to guarantee farmers their cost of production plus a profit.)

The witness contended that Henry A. Wallace, present secretary of agriculture, was one of the original sponsors of the "cost-of-production" program from 1926 through 1928. Wallace now is opposed to such a measure.

Kennedy appeared as president of the National Agricultural Conference, a group which met in Washington last Summer to push the bill that now has the pledged support of 17 senators and 13 House members. The witness frankly acknowledged that the bill would junk the crop control features of the administration farm program.

He encountered some critical questions from several senators. Senator Gillette (D), Iowa, said he doubted that the price-fixing program could work as planned and said it involved "great regimentation."

Senators Ellender (D), Louisiana, and Schwellenbach (D), Washington, also questioned the feasibility of determining "cost-of-production" for wheat, cotton or other products because they vary so in different parts of the country.

Kennedy explained that under the bill the secretary of agriculture would

prices for half a hundred ar-
n products ranging from
grains and livestock to
d vegetables.
andlers and processors
equired to pay these
m of licenses and

eceive this fixed
their share of crops
m st consumption. The
surplus thus would go to the secretary for sale in world markets. Any return from such sales would go back to farmers, after deduction of costs.

"Price fixing is as old as modern capitalism," Kennedy claimed. "It is practiced wherever there are brains associated with business."

Chairman Smith (D), South Carolina, of the Senate agricultural committee, wanted to know "what this would cost the government?"

"It is not contemplated it will cost anything," Kennedy replied. "Operating money would come from handling, transportation and sale of the surplus."

Conferees Disagree Over Cotton Surplus

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.— (AP) —A two-hour closed conference with Secretary Wallace failed today to bring agreement among Southern legislators on a program for handling the cotton surplus.

The secretary of agriculture agreed to return to Capitol Hill tomorrow in an effort to draft a program with chairmen of the Senate and House agriculture committees.

The score of senators and representatives from Southern States said afterwards Wallace had not backed any of a half dozen conflicting proposals, and that he had been given little chance to present his own ideas.

The session was called in an effort to unify congressional support behind some program for dealing with a surplus of more than 14,000,000 bales of cotton. The Government now controls nearly 11,000,000 bales of this through its investment of $500,000,000 in loans.

There were proposals that the government write off its investment on several millions bales of this loan cotton or impound it in some manner as to avoid a depressing effect on market prices.

Senator Bankhead (D), Alabama, who has proposed that 4,000,000 bales of loan cotton be used to reduce this year's production by that amount, said most of the legislators agreed that any proposal adopted would avoid lowering current market prices.

The Bankhead proposal would write off loans of about $45 a bale on as much as 4,000,000 bales or a total maximum loss to the government of $180,000,000.

The Guest Writer

Mr Wallace On Cotton

(From The Dallas Morning News)

Whatever kind of farmer the present Secretary of Agriculture may be, no cotton man has accused him of an intimate knowledge of the cotton market. Throughout his entire administration there has been no indication, whatever he may have learned about cotton elsewhere, that he has understood the cotton situation in Texas, a condition that exists here in the greatest degree of any state and to a lesser extent in Louisiana and in Oklahoma. The secretary is either unable or unwilling to perceive that a state which has been well over 90 per cent an export cotton producer has not been aided but materially injured by every device which so far his department has recommended or Congress adopted.

At Little Rock Friday Mr. Wallace considered the loss in export cotton, advocated two measures to overcome losses. He is for the export subsidy plan which would enable the cotton farmer to meet world price abroad through Federal contribution at home of as high as 2 cents to the pound. Meanwhile, he is hopeful of applying to international cotton markets the cartel idea of quota, previously tried in rubber, sugar and coffee. The fact that a conference to consider world cotton price is in the making does not assure that it will or can accomplish results.

Consider the implications for a moment. This country deliberately sacrificed its foreign markets by limitation on production which stimulated cotton planting abroad, turned our foreign customers to new cotton fields in order to protect themselves and fostered competitive cotton growing, new and tragic in our experience. The new cotton producers do not for the present suffer from surplus and have nothing to gain by accepting quota. It is a foregone conclusion that all cotton-producing countries could not be enlisted in quota agreements, and those that stayed out would merely increase their planting and output.

As for the subsidy, in the words of Walter Parker, this White House scheme is "not liked by most farmers or by the trade or by a great many members of Congress. It is hostile to Mr. Hull's reciprocal trade agreements and would further disrupt the marketing machinery upon which cotton depends for orderly sale and distribution."

The Government could help cotton by a wise move which would cost it nothing in the long run. It should accept the advice to "freeze" its cotton holdings by earmarking all of it for emergency war use, thus definitely removing it as a world threat. Failing to do that, it must begin to release its impounded 11,000,000 bales through normal trade channels.

Meanwhile we will have a better opportunity to regain our lost markets by returning to competition and selling where we can find customers than can be found in the quota agreement, often proved unworkable.

Subsidize Living At Home

Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace concluded his discussion of the cotton situation in Little Rock a few days ago with a ringing and eloquent profession of interest in the men, women and youngsters who produce cotton. He announced that he would never let them down, or words to that effect, and he pronounced his faith in the cotton export subsidy plan as the best means of helping them.

The Commercial Appeal joins Mr. Wallace in his concern for the folks who toil in the hot sun to produce cotton, but it disagrees with him radically in his professed faith in the export subsidy. We believe that whatever funds are available for the subsidizing of cotton should be paid directly to the producers when they need it and to enable them to sell their cotton and keep it out of the loan. More than that, we have a suggestion based on more than five years of experience with the Plant To Prosper Competition and many thousands of farm families in the MidSouth Cotton Belt.

If Mr. Wallace can find the money to subsidize cotton, let him pay it out on the basis of whether or not the cotton producer has established and maintained a sensible live-at-home program. In other words, relieve the producer of the grim necessity of gambling his all on the hope that cotton will bring him enough money to buy practically everything he needs, pay taxes and so forth. Assist the cotton grower to a state of economic freedom in which he raises for himself on the land he owns or rents everything he can grow economically, and hence has whatever cash cotton brings in to supplement his living and meet the taxes that are the obligations of citizenship.

This proposal that living at home be encouraged is no pipe dream of ours, no instance of wishful, visionary thinking, but a conclusion reached after nearly six years of direct contact with thousands of farm families whom we have seen better themselves and the states in which they live by practical application of the crop diversification and live-at-home idea. Other Southern newspapers in their respective fields have tested the Plant To Prosper idea with results similar to ours, and there is nothing about it that cannot be taken over and used with equal effect by hundreds of thousands of other cotton growers, white and colored, in the Cotton Belt.

Employment of the live-at-home, diversification, Plant To Prosper idea would automatically reduce cotton acreage in a constructive manner to the improvement of the farmers, the soil and the Nation. It would allow the producer to live, and live well, while the surplus was being reduced and the trade returned to normal. If subsidy there must be, let it operate here at home and for the benefit of the homefolks.

Farm Students Hear Expert Lecture On Conditions In U. S.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.— "The condition of agricultural laborers in foreign countries and particularly in India is far worse than the condition of tenants and sharecroppers in southern cotton farms," said P. K. Norris, senior marketing specialist in cotton of the Foreign Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture who is here this week to address Negro extending Agents attending the Special Summer course.

Because of its monetary policy and the increasing production of cotton similar in staple to American upland, Mr. Norris regards Brazil as the most serious competition for the American product.

Having recently returned from China, Mr. Morris has during the past ten yaers made and published surveys of cotton production in Brazil, India, China, Japan ,Egypt, Turkey, Burma Ugandi and Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

He has been assisting C. F. Clark, agricultural economist of the AAA who is conducting the class in Agricultural Economics.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

GENERAL

TITUSVILLE PA HERALD
FRIDAY JANUARY 20 1939

Judge Prather Urges Farmers And Others To Reforest Waste Acres; Gives Own Experience

Editor of The Herald:

Dear sir:—As an eager and delighted reader of the recent series of articles published in The Titusville Herald on reforestation in Crawford county, I want to voice my appreciation of their timeliness and comprehension. Their convincing collection of essential primary information ought to produce renewed activity in a planting program.

The questions arising in the mind of the reader are: Is such a program practicable, workable, desirable and valuable? The real lover of trees can answer these quickly and affirmatively. The other fellow must survey and consider all the facts; he is yet to be convinced and converted.

Is the saving of the tree, and planting of the tree and its protection against destruction or wasteful conversion merely sentiment?

All history, all literature and the experiences of the ages teach tree beauty, tree utility and argue tree conservation. Such a program is not only a work of beauty, but is fast becoming an economic necessity.

But, someone asks, "Shall we give up to the growing of trees some part of our broad acres suitable to the growing of wheat, corn, oats and pasturage?" The answer is, "Not at all do this."

The questioner should rather ask, "Shall we devote the acreage of our abandoned farm, or the waste land of an otherwise usable farm or unprofitable pasturage land to reforesting?" The answer is clearly, "Yes."

Every one who plants and protects a tree either for beauty or utility is a builder. He becomes a partner with nature, he becomes dynamic with its unfolding power, his thoughts grow with the tree.

Waste land may be defined as land unused, unproductive or unsuitable for any general farm purposes. The fact is that if it is unused it is quickly classified either as waste or abandoned land.

Suppose one owns fifty acres of land upon which he lives, with five acres of this either unused or unproductive. The assessor comes along with his book and inquires the acreage of the farm. He then generally puts a flat value per acre, without recognition or rebate as to the waste land. This means that the owner is paying a substantial tax on somehing without value or substantial value.

This illustration leads to the conclusion that the owner should either dispossess himself of this waste land to reduce his taxes or he should put it to work.

Let us assume for illustration and discussion the following facts substantially accurate for the purpose of argument:

That Crawford county is fifty miles in length from east to west and twenty-five miles from north to south. It therefore contains 1,250 square miles or 800,000 acres: Assume that five-eighths of this acreage is cleared and we have as estimated by the Department of Agriculture 500,000 acres in farm land.

A census of the acreage of idle, waste, unused or abandoned farms in Crawford county, taken by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in 1924, showed over 7 percent under classification. Seven percent of 000 acres equals 35,000—I do not access to a later census but we assume that as against a present sus the variation is slight rather substantial.

Call this waste and idle land 25,000 acres, if you will, and it is still so many thousand acres of unproductivity, so many thousand acres of burden on the backs of the owners who continue to pay its tax burdens.

In June, 1926, the United States Department of Agriculture, co-operating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, found that of 6,252 farms in Crawford county, 347 were vacant and of these 347, 87 containing about 7,200 acres, were classified as abandoned. In passing, it is to be noted that similar conditions exist in the other farm and dairy counties of the state.

We are confronted with this situation. What shall we do about it? The owner of this idle, waste or abandoned land says, "What shall I do?" The answers are:

Plant a substantial acreage to seedlings, say pine and larch. At what cost?

The Department of Forests of Pennsylvania will furnish these seedlings at $2.00 per thousand. This thousand will plant one acre; two men can do the planting in one day—The cost of planting one acre, therefore, would not exceed $8.00 to $10.00.

He may answer, "I do not have this amount to spare." Then interest a neighbor or business man to plant an acre and deed him an acre for his labor and expense. If this doesn't interest you, offer for sale your unused land, your wasteland or your abandoned farm not at farm prices but at wasteland prices.

With no productivity, any line of activity, looking toward reclamation and production is better than continued stagnation.

I offer these three alternatives to meet the financial condition of the owner who in many instances cannot advance even the small amount required to plant a single acre.

If such a man says, "I must have a home—I can't think of selling my farm," then the answer is: That the impersonal home on a farm consists of one's house and barn and the acres he uses for tillage or pasturage. The idle acres on that farm, instead of adding to, subtract from the value of the home. Keep the home, sell the wasteland or reclaim it by reforestation or otherwise.

Finally returning to the original question, is reforesting needful, is it practical?

In 1930, I planted about 300 seedling thispines—Scotch, white and red. Within a 500,-month, nowa landscape planter called haveat my residence and offered me $2.50 a maytree for this planting. It sounds practical to invest $10 in 1930 and have it than grow to $600 or more, in eight years.

As these seedlings were procured from the Pennsylvania Department of Forests, I could not sell them, but one can buy such seedlings from accredited tree nurseries and sell them at his pleasure without any restraint.

If one is making a generous planting it may be advantageous to procure a part of the seedlings from a commercial nursery, which means the paying of $10 to $15 per thousand to the nursery instead of $2 to the state.

A letter just received from the Department of Forests of Pennsylvania comparing advantages of seedlings with transplants states:

"Under the general planting conditions available in Pennsylvania, seedlings are more commonly preferred. Seedlings usually give a greater survival and become readily established. This department plants over 2,000,000 trees on its own land each year and prefers seedlings in 98 percent of all its reforestation program."

I was much impressed by the John M. Collins' column published in the New York Times, Sunday, December 24, 1938, under the heading "Plant To Prosper."

The story is concerning the 42,000 families in the southern area of Memphis, Tenn., enlisted to quit share cropping and become owners of the farms they live on. The story goes:

"Three years ago he was a share cropper—and expected he always would be one. With his wife and four children he lived in a typical cropper's cabin—poorly furnished, with cracks in the walls inadequately covered with paper. At the end of the year his "furnish" from the store usually ate up the earnings from his summer's labor.

"The other night, as owner of his own farm, with a new house and barn, livestock in his pastures, his cellars full of food and net earnings of $1,000 for the year, he stood in the ballroom of the Peabody Hotel here and was cheered by 600 persons as an example of what American initiative, plus hard work and good management, could do, even on the so-called underprivileged farms of the Cotton South.

"The man was H. L. Majure, 48 years old, of Poplar Grove, Ark. All that he and his family had accomplished had been done by themselves, without benefit of subsidy, governmental or private."

The moral is that these unfortunate croppers were lifting themselves into ownership of the soil they tilled, then into money makers by rotation of crops and intelligent planting.

The intelligent planting I am now arguing is the reforestation of unproductive lands.

By studying what waste or depleted soil needs, by supplying it and then putting it to work, George Washington Carver, born a slave, now a man of science at Tuskogee Institute, the peanut wizard, transformed the impoverished land of the south into profitable productivity, discovered nearly three hundred uses for the circus day peanut and created a peanut industry of 60 million dollars. All this, not for himself, but for others.

Carver's genius for studying land possibilities and responding to them is needed right here in Crawford county.

Our problem does not require a college training, nor the massing of capital—just determment, energy and a nominal amount of money. One impediment always raises its head and voices its indifference to future planning. It's the paralyzing philosophy—"I won't live to see that tree amount to anything." In most instances he won't live to see his grandchildren amount to anything—yet he hopes they will arrive even after he is gone.

I wish you would read an article in the January number of the Reader's Digest, page 70, entitled, "Town Forests That Pay." It's right to the point.

Many men, now living, can remember that within fifty years valuable forests of virgin hemlock were felled and left to rot on the ground merely to procure the bark for tannery purposes. In spite of facts and the continued admonitions of staticians that our forest lands are fast wasting away, commercial enterprises continue their mad competition of conversion and certain destruction.

Reflecting that Titusville is 28 miles east of Meadville, 50 miles east of the county's west line. I express regret you are so far removed from us western residents. Naturally, your paper cannot have a large circulation west of the county seat.

This means a large body of citizens have missed your instructional story on reforestation in Crawford county with its challenge of tree veneration.

Please accept my deep appreciation for your zeal in in this reclamation cause. Thank The Herald and Larry Lowing for their clear call "Back to Nature," back to the wooded hills.

If anyone set in his setness, that it is no use, urges as his defense that this is an enterprise of easy money, income or capital—where did the Boy Scouts and their leaders get their money and how did some of the farmers, living on mortgaged farms, get their money to float their program? The secret is they didn't have any (or very little) they had energy and put it to work.

Finally, it would be illuminating to collect a planting tabulation of the county showing names of planters, acreage planted and in what district. This would not be so difficult. It could be done by mailing to each assessor in the 34 townships a letter in the nature of a questionaire asking for this information.

If you think it worth while I will furnish you the names and addresses of these assessors.

By the way, I have just purchased four acres of land in Woodcock township and have ordered 5,000 seedlings for April planting. No boy was ever more eager for circus day than am I for this planting day. I shall plant red and white pine and scotch pine and larch.

My seedlings come from the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters and from a private nursery. The State charges $2 per thousand and the nursery $10 a thousand.

THOMAS J. PRATHER

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Judge Prather says one definition of a pioneer is: "One who goes before, preparing the way for others." He is a trail blazer, a discoverer, an experimenter, a demonstrator.

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Forces Bent On Voting $250,000,000 To Planters, $150,000,000 For WPA

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Although no question of administration strength was involved—since the president's budget had not recommended the parity payment appropriation—the Democratic leadership was ready to throw its support to that item. The reason given was that the appropriation had been approved by the appropriations committee.

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Under the circumstances, members of the economy bloc, heretofore uniformly successful this session, grimly fought for time and endeavored to assay a situation which some of its members said, held possibilities of undoing all their previous work in trimming appropriations.

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The farm bill would appropriate a total of $1,066,000,000, including $500,000,000 for benefits, the $250,000,000 parity payment item and $316,000,000 for other expenses of the Agriculture Department.

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Progress to This End Made by the Farm Security Program Outlined

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

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Mr. Farsund asks questions about a problem that has occupied a great part of the time and effort of Congress in the preparation of farm legislation and a great deal of time and effort in the Department of Agriculture in administering farm legislation. The facts which Mr. Farsund cites are fundamental in the problem of assisting farmers to attain a greater measure of security. Mr. Farsund and other readers will be interested in the efforts now being made to assist in the solution of this problem.

In general, programs designed to improve and stabilize farm prices and farm income, to protect soil resources and bring about better use of land, are beneficial to small producers as well as to large producers. Improvements in the general situation brought about by efforts of big producers will benefit also the small producers. More specifically, provisions in the AAA program for limiting the amount of large payments and increasing the amount of small payments, and the establishment of the farm security program for the expressed purpose of helping low-income farmers operating small acreages, show that a special effort is being made to assist small producers.

Providing for Increase

In the AAA conservation program there is provision for increases in payments earned in amounts less than $200, the increases being graduated so that they are proportionately larger for the smaller payments. Under the 1937 program 59 per cent of the money went to farmers receiving $200 or less; 36 per cent went to farmers receiving $100 or less. Less than 1 per cent of the money went into payments in the range from $5,000 to $10,000. As the legislation now stands, payments to any individual, partnership or estate are limited to $10,000 in each State, territory or possession.

While the average reduction in cotton acreage for all farms has been about one-third, farmers who would normally grow not more than five acres are not required to reduce acreage in order to qualify for payment. A similar provision exists for small producers growing not more than eight acres of wheat or corn.

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NO "BIBLE BELT"

The South Has 48 Per Cent Of Nation's Farmland, Less Than Third of Farm Income

WPA Surveys 'Trends in Size and Production of the Aggregate Farm Enterprise, 1909-36', Reveals Gains, Losses of Various Crops

By WALTER DURHAM

Distance between Rockingham County, Virginia, and Hansford County, Texas, is approximately 1500 miles, and between the two, the former in the extreme Eastern section representing the better type of diversified agricultur, and the latter in the extreme Western part of the South, representing the one-crop system, there is a wide range in types of agriculture and farm property.

Although this vast area generally has made considerable progress in agriculture during the past 30 years, some sections of the South have actually gone backward—hill counties where erosion has taken its toll, and coastal counties where the boll weevil has destroyed cotton farming.

A recent publication by the Works Progress Administration entitled "Trends in Size and Production of the Aggregate Farm Enterprise, 1909-36," contains some interesting trends in agricultural conditions in the South during the past 27 years.

Four Sections Covered

The publication divides the South into four sections: Middle Eastern, which includes Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee; Eastern Cotton, embracing Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina; Delta Cotton, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and Western Cotton, Oklahoma and Texas.

The South has 48 per cent of all farms in the United States, according to the Census Bureau's definition of a farm, which includes land operated by croppers as separate farms. Almost 34 per cent of the land in farms is in the South, and slightly more than 31 per cent of the crop land. Southern farmers, however, receive less than 30 per cent of the total cash farm income.

During the period, 1909-1914, the Southern states averaged 12,793,000 head of cattle other than milk cows, the report showed. This was 31.3 per cent of all cattle in the United States. More than one-half of the cattle were in the Western Cotton area. By 1936, the number of cattle in the South had increased 7.5 per cent to 13,758,000 head, which was 31.5 per cent of the country's total.

Proportional Gain Slight

While the number of cattle has been increasing in the South, the South's proportion of the cattle in the United States is only slightly greater than during the 1909-14 period. The number of milk cows in the early period was 4,542,000, which was 26 per cent of the Nation's total. In 1936, this number had increased 43 per cent to 6,517,000, or 27 per cent of the national total.

The South has shown a greater increase in milk cows than the country at large, but production of milk per cow is still below the average for the country. With 28 per cent of the milk cows, the South produced only 20 per cent of the Nation's milk. Thirty years ago the South produced 13,387,000,000 pounds of milk annually, compared with 20,875,000,000 in 1936, but this increase was only slightly larger than the national increase during the period.

Development of the poultry industry in the South has been quite rapid, the survey disclosed, and relatively the increase has been greater in this section than throughout the United States. In 1909, there were 299,000,000 chickens in the South, 27.8 per cent of the national total, while in 1936 there were 426,000,000 chickens, or 28.6 per cent.

Egg Increase Is Rapid

Production of eggs has increased rapidly, it was found. In 1909, the South produced 425,000,000 dozen, while 1936 production was 605,000,000 dozen, an increase of 42 per cent during the period. The South is now producing 23.8 per cent of the Nation's egg supply.

As a result of the more than threefold increase in the number of sheep in Western Cotton States, the South's percentage of the total number of sheep increased from 13.1 per cent in 1909 to 23.3 per cent in 1936. The hog industry, however, has declined more in the South than in the country at large. In 1909, the South had 25.6 per cent of the total number of sows, but in 1936 it had only 20.3 per cent.

The livestock industry has increased in the South more rapidly than elsewhere, but livestock production is still a minor enterprise in this section, the report said. In 1936, the South received only 15.6 per cent of the total United States cash income from livestock, compared with 42.2 per cent of the total income from crops.

During the past 30 years there have also been significant changes in crop acreage. Production of food crops has increased, and there has also been considerable increase in production of wheat in the South. In 1909, the South produced 24.6 per cent of the total corn crop, and in 1936 produced 27.2 per cent.

Hay Crop Shows Gain

This section's share of the hay crop was only 9.9 per cent 30 years ago, which increased to 13.9 per cent in 1936. Wheat production is up 2.5 per cent over figures of 1909.

Acreage of truck crops has increased at a more rapid rate in the South than nationally. In 1909, the South had 45.7 per cent of the Nation's truck acreage, compared with 49.1 per cent three years ago.

The South's three principal cash crops are cotton, tobacco and peanuts. Importance of cotton to Southern agriculture has declined since 1909. In that year cotton acreage was 9.9 per cent of the total farm land in the South, but in 1936 cotton acreage was only 7.2 per cent. The acreage dropped from the peak of 44,600,000 in 1926 to 30,000,000 acres in 1936, or 33 per cent. However, in 1937, 35 per cent of the South's total cash farm income was derived from cotton.

The South's share of tobacco production has been increasing rapidly. During the years 1909-14, the South produced 72 per cent of the Nation's tobacco. This figure increased to 91 per cent in 1936. Cash income from tobacco that year was 12 per cent of the total farm income in the South.

Peanut Output Doubles

Production of peanuts has doubled in the South since 1909, but this crop accounts for only 1.2 per cent of the section's farm income, and requires only 1 per cent of the crop land.

Greatest problem confronting Southern agriculture, the Government survey found, is to increase the income per farmer or per worker. The South now has about 52 per cent of the agricultural workers in the United States, but receives only 32 per cent of the gross farm income.

Average cash income per farm in the South in 1936 was $758, which was 40 per cent less than the average of $1262 for all farms in the United States.

The publication lists seven recommendations for improving Southern agriculture. They are:

1. More determined efforts must be made to control soil erosion.
2. Crop yields per acre must be increased by building up fertility of farm lands.

Must Raise More Stock

3. The livestock industry must be developed by improving breeding stock, growing more feed crops and increasing and improving pasture acreage.
4. The 17,500,000 acres of idle crop land must be utilized for soil improving crops, pasture and woods.
5. More attention must be given to care and improvement of farm woodlands.
6. Sound industrial development must be encouraged to provide both full-time and part-time employment for farm labor.
7. Each state and county should prepare a long-range agricultural program as a guide for future development.

Family Gardens Reduce Living Costs Greatly

WASHINGTON, June 11.—Because they reduce food expenditures of families from $150 to $350 annually, vegetable gardens are a big help in increasing living standards of Farm Security Administration borrowers, results of a Nationwide survey showed today. Money saved on food is available for other living expenses and for paying debts.

The survey revealed that FSA families more than tripled their production of food for home consumption last year. They increased their canning of fruits and vegetables from an average of 51 quarts per family annually to 221 quarts. Many were able to meet all vegetable requirements for the entire year with fresh, stored or canned supplies.

Gardens are planned, according to FSA home supervisors, to furnish a good supply of fresh vegetables during Summer months and enough additional so the homemaker may can about 25 quarts of tomatoes and 35 quarts of other vegetables for each member of her family. In addition, three to five bushels of potatoes and three to four bushels of vegetables such as carrots, cabbage, beets, rutabagas and turnips are recommended for storage for each member of the family.

Preferences of members of the family and their requirements for an adequate year-round diet are carefully measured before the garden is planned.

290,000 Forest Seedlings Planted In Arkansas

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., June 11.—Arkansas farmers made great improvement in their land use practices this Spring by planting 290,000 forest seedlings on idle acres on their farms, according to records of Frederick J. Shulley, state extension forester. This was more than three times the number planted last year.

"By putting these idle farm acres to work through planting, the farmers are putting into practice the policy that every farm acre should contribute its share toward the farm family welfare," Mr. Shulley said.

Comparing records, 149 farmers planted seedlings this Spring compared to 29 farmers planting last Spring, and plantings were made in 45 counties of the state this year compared to 12 counties last Spring. Approximately five times the amount of black locust and twice the amount of shortleaf pine were planted this Spring compared to the amount planted the year before.

New phases of the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture's planting program this year have been establishment of nine one-acre forests by county home demonstration club councils for the purpose of growing a crop of timber, and the establishment of 35 plantings by 4-H Club members over the state who have each received free 1000 forest seedlings to plant as their year's forestry project.

Planting shortleaf and loblolly pine for sawlogs and poles and black locust for fence posts is a proper land-use practice on idle farm acres, Mr. Shulley said.

Cattle Club To Award 4-H Scholarship

STATE COLLEGE, Miss., June 11.—The Mississippi Jersey Cattle Club will award a $100 scholarship to the 4-H Club member who does the best dairy work in Mississippi in 1939, L. A. Higgins, extension dairy specialist and club secretary, said today.

To qualify for competition, a club member must be regularly enrolled in 4-H Club work under direction of the county agent; must own one or more purebred Jersey females in his own name; must carry out a well-rounded program of calf club work, including growing of feeds and a cash crop for payment of note if the calf is purchased on note, and must take an active part in club activities.

"We hope this contest will stimulate keen rivalry and clean com-

petition among the 4-H Club members," said W. Y. Brame of Meridian, president of the Jersey Cattle Club.

Cotton Growing, Cattle Producton Combined

DE QUEEN, Ark., June 11.—Cotton growing and beef cattle production have been combined into a profitable farm business on the Sevier County Farm of Tull Carroll, according to County Agent M. F. Stanford.

Mr. Carroll's income from beef cattle in 1938 was $661 and his income from 46 acres of cotton totaled $880.92. In addition to cotton, he raised 42 acres of corn, 29 acres of peanuts and 88 acres of lespedeza.

Mr. Carroll started his beef herd several years ago when he purchased five purebred heifers and a purebred bull. He has kept all the heifer calves from these cows and has sold all the bulls for herd sires. The first heifers he bought have produced calves that are now producing purebred calves.

Beef Cattle, Hogs Replace Cotton On Farmland

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., June 11.—Income from 12 dairy cows has sent four sons of Ross J. Davis, Washington County farmer, through high school, according to Kermit C. Ross, assistant county agent.

Mr. Davis has averaged $14 a week profit from cream sales, and has sold $200 worth of calves this year. Home grown feed and plenty of pasture for grazing are partly responsible for his profits, Mr. Davis said. Since skim milk is fed to hogs and poultry, the meat supply on the Davis farm costs very little.

For Farm Ownership

Farm tenancy is dealt a severe blow in a measure passed last week by the senate and expected up for house approval in the near future. The bill is an outgrowth of the limited tenancy program now being conducted and should furnish at least a partial answer to a major southern problem.

Under terms of the bill, as passed by the senate, some $350,000,000 would be available for loans to farmers who today are unable to reach above the hopeless mire of tenancy. The FHA plan of insuring mortgages is utilized under this new program, the government guaranteeing repayment of loans which farmers would receive from private interests. The value of this approach can be seen in the fact that the comparatively low sum of $40,000,000 has been provided under this plan for the current fiscal year. This, naturally, reaches only a small part of the tenancy group able to pay for farms.

It is advantageous also that the new method returns the loan program to local institutions and is a step toward an end of direct government control of individual farmers, however well that authority has been used under the present tenancy program.

It is questionable whether the low interest rate permitted, three per cent, and the fact that no premium is assessed on the tenancy insurance program will operate against the plan. There is the argument, which sounds reasonable, that a farm normally would produce income for repayment of the loans, while a home, insured under the FHA plan, does not.

The present tenancy program in Georgia has been well proved. The process has naturally been one of selection and for that reason has met with success. On the larger scale, however, there would be more individual, local knowledge of the tenants selected for loans, which would tend to make the program even more workable than the direct loan plan. Certainly it is desirable to reach more of the able tenants than is possible under the limitations of the FSA funds.

The greatest value, and greatest concentration, under the new plan should rest with rural youth. To this end there should be an increase in development of agricultural schools so scientific training can be given all farm youths, avoiding the mistakes perpetuated by the tenancy system.

Through the co-operation of the Georgia schools and the National Youth Administration it should be possible to establish a new generation of farm owners well grounded in the fundamentals of successful, diversified use of the land.

95 Per Cent Negro Farmers Live in South—One-Fourth Own Property in 14 States

WASHINGTON.— (ANP) — City folk give little attention to facts and figures about farm life in the United States, especially among the Negro population. But it is astounding to know that farming is both a business and a way of life for half of all Negroes in America. Furthermore, 95 percent of all Negro farm operators in the United States live in the southern states, and more than three-fourths of these are tenants.

Farm tenants, according to the Farm Security administration, fall roughly into three classes:

1. Sharecroppers, who contribute labor only, receiving in return a share of the crop.

2. "Third and fourth" tenants, who supply equipment and bear some managerial responsibility and receive larger shares of the crop according to their contribution of feed, fertilizer and equipment, a third of corn and a fourth of the cotton being a common rental.

3. "Standing renters," who rent the land outright, paying for its use either in cash or produce.

In the South, one half of all sharecroppers are Negroes. The number of Negro sharecroppers exceeds the number of whites in Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, with the latter state having three and one-half times as many Negro as white sharecroppers.

Fully half of the Negro children growing to manhood and womanhood on Southern farms face the drudgery and neglect typical of most croppers' children of any race. Chief among the evils which the poor man on the farm—small owner, tenant or laborer—has to face are poor housing, high mortality, insecurity and debt.

Bad housing and sanitation are reflected in hookwork and anemia. Faulty diets result in the dread pellagra. The yearly toll from death and disease adds to the burden of indebtedness, while beneath all these hurtful conditions lies the menace of insecurity, crippling both landlord and tenant.

The figures on the farm tenancy in 14 states in the South reveal interesting facts. There is no relation between the number of owners, operators, tenants or croppers. In some states the croppers outnumber others, but in other states the croppers form the smaller group. Mississippi is an exception, having as it does a number of croppers double that of Georgia and Arkansas, three times the number in other states.

In the matter of farm ownership, Virginia pridefully takes the lead, showing a 6,000 majority over its nearest competitor, Mississippi. Tabulated, the figures show the following results:

Owners	185,166
Operators	814,227
Tenants	629,070
Croppers	380,855
Total farmers (Negro)	2,009,318

This figure represents the individual heads of families in the 14 Southern states among Negro farmers, and is equal to the number of "farms" operated in that section by Negroes.

The total figure for the number of Negroes on farm lands in these same states shows that there are 4,494,958 individuals on these farms, or two and a fraction over per farm, a very low figure.

These figures are from the FSA report:

Negro Farm Population in 14 Southern States:

State	Owners	Operators	Tenants	Croppers
1. Mississippi	21,288	169,006	147,693	106,156
2. Louisians	10,839	70,315	59,456	33,513
3. South Carolina	18,394	76,537	58,124	31,046
4. Arkansas	11,343	71,300	59,940	40,047
5. Georgia	10,571	73,285	62,682	51,404
6. Alabama	15,709	91,275	75,542	33,257
7. North Carolina	20,373	69,373	48,985	30,001
8. Maryland	2,728	4,906	2,135	600
9. Texas	20,800	71,785	50,941	25,675
10. Virginia	27,662	43,211	15,512	6,102
11. Florida	6,792	12,764	5,922	1,521
12. Tennessee	7,843	34,396	26,545	16,096
13. Oklahoma	6,762	17,824	11,046	2,681
14. Kentucky	4,052	8,250	4,187	2,756
	185,166	814,227	629,070	380,855

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Agricultural Editor

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WAGE DETERMINATION ANNOUNCED FOR MAINLAND SUGAR CANE AREA

The Sugar Division of the Department of Agriculture today announced a determination as required by the Sugar Act of 1937, of minimum rates to be paid laborers in the planting or cultivating of sugar cane during the period January 1, 1939, through December 31, 1939, by producers in the mainland cane sugar area who apply for payments with respect to the 1939 crop.

The Sugar Act requires, among other conditions of payment to growers, that all persons employed on a farm in the production, cultivation or harvesting of sugarcane or sugar beets be paid in full by growers for all such work at rates not less than those determined by the Secretary of Agriculture to be fair and reasonable.

The determination for 1939 provides the same wage rates per day as those established for 1938 for planting or cultivating cane; but the basic working day has been defined as a day of 9 hours. (In the 1938 determination the basic working day was defined only as the customary working day.) Shorter or longer working days will be paid for in proportion.

The rates provided in the determination for workers in Louisiana are as follows: For adult male workers, not less than $1.20 per day of nine hours; for adult female workers, not less than $1.00 per day of nine hours. In cases where the working day is longer or shorter than nine hours the rate is not to be less than 13 cents per hour for adult male workers, and 11 cents per hour for adult female workers. The rates provided for workers in Florida, where general farm wage rates normally are higher than in Louisiana, are as follows: For adult male workers not than $1.60 per day of nine hours; for adult female workers not less than $1.30 per day of nine hours. In cases where the working day is longer or shorter than nine hours, the rate is not to be less than 18 cents per hour for adult male workers and 14 cents per hour for adult female workers.

It is further provided in the determination: (1) that the producer furnish the laborer, without charge, with the customary perquisites, such as a house, garden plot, pasture for livestock, medical attention, and fuel. (2) that if work is performed on any piece rate basis the earnings per hour or per day shall not be less than the rates per hour and per day specified above for male and female workers, respectively.

The determination was issued following public hearings held in various parts of the mainland cane sugar area, and investigation as required by the Act.

• • •

MAKING FARM PLANS FOR 1939

The farmer, like the mechanic, the merchant and the business man in general, needs a well studied and well arranged plan for his daily, weekly and yearly program. He should look over his land and decide just where he wants to plant each crop and when he wants to plant it. He should carefully write out these plans and put them away in some convenient place where he can readily find them just when he wants to find them. This will not only save him much trouble and time but it will enable him to do the right thing at the right time.

A well drained place should be selected for a garden that will enable the farmer to have plenty of vegetables both winter and summer. The garden should be large and roomy so that plenty vegetables can be grown for the family and some to give to the less fortunate neighbors, like our fathers and mothers used to do in the good old days when each family felt his neighbor's care. Commence to plant something in this garden in January and keep up planting and harvesting until January comes again.

In your yearly plan be sure to provide for plenty of feed for the family and the livestock, consisting of corn, peas, peanuts, hay, syrup, grain sorghum, pop corn and various kinds of food and feed. Raise plenty of hogs, cows, horses, mules, chickens, turkeys and such other kinds of fowls and domestic animals as your surroundings will permit. Try to make your farm as near self-supporting as possible, by raising at home everything that you need for home consumption. The farmer who does this will not need but very little credit or outside assistance.

After the above things have been provided for the farmer is then ready to decide how much cotton he can plan on his farm. With nearly all of his living provided for in the above crops, his cotton crop can be devoted almost wholly to the payment of pressing debts and making improvements on his farm.

The man who has ruined the South and made it a laughing stock for the other sections of the country, is the one crop farmer. The farmer who raised, or attempts to raise, cotton to buy everything else that he needed, the farmer who failed to raise the things that he needed on his farm for home consumption, the farmer who thinks in terms of how much money he can borrow on his cotton crop and a big government check he can receive without working for it.

The time has come in the life of the farmers when they must think in terms of an improved farm program made on their farms instead of up at Washington. They must work with their county agents, their Negro County agents and their Home Demonstration agents and strive to get the best out of the present program until a better one can be presented. Stop complaining and remember that the government cannot make a program to fit each farmer but that each farmer can fit himself to the government program.

In your yearly program do not forget the orchard. Remember that it should be replanted, pruned and carefully sprayed at the proper time. The orchard when properly cared for becomes a valuable aid to the family budget and for that reason every farm should have a well proportioned family orchard.

Now is the time to plan the improvement of your farm fences and your pasture fences. This can be done at odd times when it is not suitable to do the regular farm work. While looking around on your farm you will find gullies to be filled up, ditch banks to be cleaned off and ditches to be opened or dug deeper. This work should be done in the winter time before the beginning of the main cropping season.

The farmer should carefully conserve his soil by terracing, contouring and strip-cropping. A well directed practice along these lines will gradually improve his land and make it produce larger and better crops, hereby increasing his farm income.

"Cotton Road"

"Cotton Road" is not another play about the South's underprivileged people. It is an idea that may develop into a brand-new outlet for a crop that all too long has made the South the target of writers who hold our ugher side up for all the world to see.

A new highway is being built in Texas, using cotton as a reinforcing agency. Similar highways have been built and have been successful, but Texans hope that by building more and more roads with cotton they can help sell the nation on the idea that cotton should be used as a base for reinforcing all highway beds.

Six-foot strips of heavy cotton textile are laid like a carpet and nailed to a rolled base of asphalt and gravel. Another layer of asphalt is poured over the cotton and covered with gravel and rolled again. The cotton fabric is said to help hold the asphalt and other materials together, keeping the finished highway top from cracking under the strain of traffic.

If cotton highways prove to be as successful as many Southerners hope, a great new market should be unfolded for the South No. 1 problem crop.

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AROUSED OVER KING COTTON

The South is being aroused as it has never been aroused before. Efforts are being made to find new uses for every farm product in the South. As King Cotton is about to topple from his throne, his faithful subjects, who have been his loyal slaves for more than 200 years, are busy trying to find some plan to save their beloved ruler.

Last week a representative meeting of farmers, ginners, warehousemen, merchant and crushers were held in Dallas, Texas, and they formed a permanent organization with Oscar Johnson, of Mississippi, as directing head and Hon. Daniel C. Roper, who recently resigned as Secretary of Comemrce, as vice-president. A war chest of $100,000 has already been raised, or pledged to be raised, to carry on a nationwide educational and advertising campaign. This organization plans to raise $250,000 the first year for the rehabilitation of the cotton industry of the South.

WE NEED MORE STARCH MILLS

A large starch manufacturing mill is in successful operation at Laurel, Miss., making starch out of the lowly sweet potato. Efforts are being made to establish plants like this in every Southern State. As this country imports millions of pounds of starch from other countries, there is ample room for starch mills in every Southern State.

The farmers should encourage the establishment of these starch mills as this would open up a new market for their surplus potatoes at a reasonable market price. They should not only talk this matter up among themselves, but they should join in with the business men and help to raise the capital to build these plants. We have farmers who have money and business sense and they should lead the way by offering to put up a reasonable part of the capital.

The South is the natural home of the sweet potato and the Negro farmers should hail this starch plant proposition with joy as it means millions of dollars to him from an almost new source. He can raise sweet potatoes in almost unlimited quantities as he has the right soil and the right climate and this will give him the right market.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A very attractive folder of six pictures of the leather work done by Negro farmers of Texas was sent to Washington by Director Williamson. The folder is beautifully done and tied with home-made leather. O. A. Mason, Negro agent of Lee County, won first prize this summer. His story is attached to the folder explaining the leather work. The director explained that the leather work was only one phase of the fine work being done in Texas by Negro rural people, under the supervision of Negro farm and home agents.

H. S. Estelle's article on leather work was carried in the Progressive Farmer for October.

The Consumers' Guide for October carried an article on "Co-operation," and stated that Negro farmers in Fayette county, Texas, had purchased the first sawmill co-operatively in the Southwest.

The construction of a pit type toilet and modern brick breeder for baby chicks was completed on the farm of E. L. Harper at a cost of $2.35. All material, other than brick, cement and lime, came from his farm. Forty-one men and club boys attended the demonstration. Two tanks for stock water were dug.

* * *

ANDERSON COUNTY, Texas.—During the County Fair, October 10-15, C. W. Simmons, Farm Forester, gave a demonstration on the protection and utilization of timber on the farm. He demonstrated using a one-man sawmill cutting lumber, making and preserving posts and producing and protecting timber on the farm. Sixteen hundred sixty-four feet of lumber were cut and fifteen posts treated.

DALLAS COUNTY, Texas.—Farm families of Dallas County have been able to add to their budget through the sale of turkeys to a Dallas market at an average price of 16 cents per pound. The farmres sold more than $1,300 worth of turkeys during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

AUSTIN COUNTY, Texas.—Two hundred and fifty pounds of home-tanned leather was made into harness. The work was done by Negro farmers during December in order to have harness and other harness equipment needed to be used on the work animals for making a crop in 1939.

* * *

Claude Barnett, secretary of the Associated Negro Press, Chicago Ill. and A. L. Holsey, field officer of the A.A.A., spent four days in Texas studying the Extension set-up. Two days were spent in North Texas with District Agent H. S. Estelle, and two days in South Texas with District Agent J. H. Williams. Before leaving they visited the Extension offices at Prairie View and had a conference with State Leader Waller and other staff members and secured a complete outline of the work done.

* * *

C. H. Waller, sub-chairman of the F.S.A. for Texas, was requested by C. M. Evans, regional director, Dallas, Tex., to attend an F.S.A meeting at Tuskegee December 12-17, 1938. Joseph Evans, assistant to the director, W. W. Alexander, of the F.S.A. in Washington was chairman of the meeting. Fifty-seven Negro workers from the Southern States were in attendance. The meeting was called so that the workers from other States could get acquainted and get the answer for a number of problems they encounter in their territories. Major Walker from the Washington office gave valuable information to the many perplexing problems. The entire group was given an opportunity to study the Prairie Farm set up of 57 farms under the management of Mr. Camp.

* * *

The above extracts from the monthly reports of C. H. Waller, State leader, Extension Work among the Negroes of Texas, show that our farmers are working up an interest among themselves that will aid in solving many of their problems. When our farmers learn to co-operate with the plans placed before them by the Negro County Agents and the Home Demonstration Agents they will be laying the foundation against poverty and want.

Financing The Farmer

There was a time when the banker's concern with the farmer was limited to advancing money on his crop. In Alabama the cotton farmer would make a loan in the Spring and pay it off, maybe, when he sold his bales in the Fall. The banker was concerned whether the farmer made a good crop, but his concern did not extend to more than casual advice at the time of the loan.

But times have changed. The bankers, along with many others, have come to sense more clearly the interwoven nature of civilization. The fact that life is so interlocked brings also mutual obligations. Helping the other man becomes self-help. The banker today knows that his relations with the farmer are more than those of a money lender.

In that spirit, the Alabama Bankers Association has undertaken a program designed to increase farm incomes through education by example. The organization "proposes to demonstrate the advantages of efficient farm management by sponsoring a representative farm in each county." Under the plan a banker in each of the 67 counties of Alabama, with the assistance of the farm agent, will select at least one farm owner whose income is below the possibilities of his farm. The banker and the farmer, under the guidance of the farm agent, will combine their efforts to increase the farmer's income. The bank will supply the necessary funds and the farm agent the supervision.

Through this cooperative effort, the farmers of each county will be given a demonstration of how efficient farm management, coupled with sound financing, will increase the farm income. The effort will also show more forcefully than before that the banker and the farmer have many interests in common and should work together for the good of both.

The farmer as a source of wealth is not fully appreciated. In 1936, according to census reports, the aggregate value of field and livestock yields in Alabama was $229,384,000. This does not include timber or timber products, a source of income to many farmers. The value of farm products is not far below the value of manufactured products in Alabama, which in 1936 amounted to $364,309,000.

Seventy per cent of Alabama residents live on farms and depend on the farm. As a class they have the lowest income in the state. Anything which can be done to increase the average farm income will benefit all the state, including the bankers. The Alabama Bankers Association wisely realizes that point and is doing something constructive about it.

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Pittsburgh Pa.

LOOKING AHEAD

All new reforms and radical changes carry with them certain dissatisfactions built up in the minds of the people in their process of readjustment. It is hard to satisfactorially change old established customs and habits, even though they may be displaced by better plans and methods. The main trouble comes from being able to get the public to see the wrong that is claimed for the old methods. The main trouble comes from being able to get the public to see the wrong that is claimed for the old methods and the good that is claimed for the new plans that are sought to be introduced. The public does not always have abiding confidence in the leaders who are introducing and advocating the various reforms and changes in the fundamental customs and habits of the common people. These reforms and changes are often introduced and advocated by men who have nothing in common with the people who are more directly affected by the reforms introduced. A condition like this can easily bring about a serious doubt in the minds of the people directly affected as to the wisdom and sincerity of their would-be benefactors.

In the solution of these grave and pressing problems of the people in the realms of the low income bracket we are often confronted with solutions and theories advanced by men who have always basked in the sunshine of wealth and splendor. Since there is very little in common between the rich man on the one side and the poor man on the other, it takes a long time for either one of them to have confidence in the ability of the other one to solve his problems. However, we often find among us broad-minded humanitarians, men and women, who, though they live on the sunny side of prosperity and mix and mingle with those who make and unmake nations, they have a heart that is broad enough to enable them to think in terms of the men and women furtherest down. When we find a man or woman like this, who has had long years of ocnsecrated service in the interest of humanity, we should appreciate their services, because, on account of their position and influence in life, they can be of great service to the poor. These great and good men and women, generally, are not only willing but really anxious to help the poor farmer in his struggles with the many disadvantages against which he is contending but, on account of the differences in their social relations, they do not always understand just what is best for the farmer.

The more intelligent farmers in this country should meet from time to time in farmers' meetings, and, after carefully considering the many things that seem to hinder their present progress, they should map out plans for future success. The sick farmer must describe his own pain to the agricultural doctor and help him to select the proper remedy. The poorest farmer, who is also the sickest farmer, does not take up enough time in studying his case or in seeking out the proper remedy for his particular case. He seems to be willing to gulp down whatever agricultural remedy that is recommended by the agricultural doctor without considering the actual merits of the medicine or the doctor. The less intelligent of our farmers should join the local, county, state and national organizations fostered by the more intelligent farmers and together they should make one long, hard continuous fight for what their combined wisdom teaches them is best for all farmers. When these farmers agree on what is best for them, they can write in to their legislators urging the enactment of such legislation as will best advance the interest of agriculture in all parts of our country.

As we consider the differences that are gradually developing between the landlords and the tenants on account of the operation of the new government plans inaugurated by the agricultural department of the present administration, we are inclined to believe that, in most cases, they have been brought about by a lack of proper understanding and co-operation between them. Under the old rule the landlords and the tenants understood each other and they worked together in harmony, but when the government began to plow up cotton and pay for it, to kill cattle and hogs and give them away, to pay conservation checks, subsidy checks and parity checks, many of our best landlords and tenants ceased to do their accustomed hard work and began to look for Santa Claus, not only once a year as heretofore, but three and four times a year. Farmers who had always considered it their duty to support themselves and to bear their portion of governmental expenses, suddenly changed their minds, habits and working plans and began to look to the government for support for themselves and families. This is an unfortunate situation and can only result in serious consequences to such dependent farmers and the government on which he is depending. The government has no money but that which it gets from the people who make up the government and when the government gives money to one man it must have either collected it from some other man or it must have borrowed it on the credit of our children and grandchildren.

As farmers we should stop looking to Washington or anywhere else for outside support and let down our bucket where we are and work in season and out of season until we raise practically everything that we need for home consumption and a surplus of the things that we can raise to sell or exchange for the things that we cannot raise. Each farmer must prepare to take care of himself by raising a living at home and then if these government checks come he is just that much better off, but if they do not come he can live on just the same. Our farmers might just as well make up their minds that these government checks are not going to continue to come always, therefore they should begin to prepare to live without them.

Cotton And The War

Before its adjournment here yesterday the International Cotton Meeting adopted a resolution calling for the creation of an advisory committee representing the various cotton-producing countries. It would be the duty of that committee to observe conditions in the industry during the present emergency and to suggest means of achieving ultimate international collaboration in the adjustment of cotton supplies to world market demands. So international efforts to solve the cotton problem appear to have been indefinitely postponed. Post

For the immediate future, at least, Secretary Wallace has to fall back upon his own cotton program, the basis of which appears to have been upset by the European war. Prices advanced sharply in both the Liverpool and New York cotton markets last week. Despite the downward trend as the week closed, the policy of subsidizing exports of this staple ought to be reexamined in the light of present conditions. 9-10-39

Some farmers are finding it to their advantage to reclaim the cotton on which they had obtained loans from the Government last year. Indeed, approximately 400,000 bales of 1938 cotton on which Government loans were made have already been withdrawn. That is not surprising for the price last week reached more than a cent a pound above the average 1938 Federal loan.

Of course, the great bulk of the Government's holdings could not be released at present prices without losses to the Treasury. Since the Government has taken title to this cotton and Congress has forbidden its sale at a loss, it is effectively isolated from the marketable supply for the present. In their rush to buy, mill owners are apparently contemplating only the facts that the carry-over of free cotton on August 1 was the smallest on record and that the war has given rise to sudden demands for the staple.

Secretary Wallace contends that any increased use of cotton for military purposes is likely to be more than offset by a

decline in its use for ordinary purposes. That may or may not prove to be the case. But in any event, the current rise in prices makes the subsidy of 1½ cents per pound, which the AAA is paying on cotton exports, even less defensible than it was before.

In his remarks to the International Cotton Meeting Mr. Wallace contended that the "segregation of loan supplies [in this country] has helped producers the world over." To date the benefits seem to have gone chiefly to cotton growers in other countries. Now the Government is paying a bonus for the exportation of American cotton. The excuse for that policy, when it was adopted, was a stimulus is essential to enable the United States to recover its "share" of the world cotton market, without reduction of price-pegging loans. But if the price remains above the 1938 loan figure, the AAA will have no valid reason to continue this uneconomic arrangement.

WAR SEEN AS WALL TO COTTON EXPORTS

Johnston Cites Loss of Foreign Markets But Predicts Boom in Textiles.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 26.—(AP) European war has dealt a severe blow to this country's cotton exports that will be only partially offset by increased exports of American-made textiles, President Oscar Johnston, of the National Cotton Council, said here today.

The Shaw, Miss., cotton authority expressed belief the 1939 export of cotton from the United States would not exceed 4,500,000 bales, compared to the 6,000,000 predicted before the outbreak of hostilities.

America, he said, will have to compete with Japan for textile markets vacated by warring Britain. Johnston predicted, however, a boom in domestic consumption to approximately 8,500,000 bales, thus making a total consumption exceeding the current crop.

He expressed doubt the cotton subsidy plan would "materially aid" the current year's exports and questioned "the wisdom of continuing the subsidy in the future."

Sharing of Tools and Stock Helps Farmer In Comeback

By WILLIAM I
Associated Pr

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—Once destitute farmers, hitting the comeback trail, are trying the neighborhood tractor and the community bull as an answer to machine age agriculture's demands.

Convinced the "one mule and a mule" formula for small farming no longer will work, the 40-acre men in many parts of the country have organized 7000 tiny co-operatives to share the tools of farming which cost too much for one small operator to own.

This is only one of the new factors in farming which Government officials believe are bringing a new age of co-operation to the American farmer—long rated the No. 1 individualist.

In addition, the "old line" co-operatives have branched out in the years of depression. The machines' new importance has boomed the growth of gasoline co-ops, and farm groups have taken to processing their products more in jointly-owned cotton gins and creameries.

Power Lines Installed

Nonprofit groups have strung 190,000 miles of power lines through farming areas in recent years to bring electricity to 575,000 rural users.

When the Farm Security Administration started out to help some of the farmers who were busted by the depression, they found that the breaking boom had swept away the tools of farming from many a rural family. Tractors, plows and even livestock had gone to pay off debts.

These were usually the small farmers. The FSA set out to set them up again on 40-acre patches—sometimes less. But the bookkeepers soon discovered that loaning a small farmer money to buy big tools was unsound. The plowing and harvesting of a small plot would not warrant the cost of the machines.

So the FSA got its clients together in groups. Jointly owned "capital" was the result. Three men bought a tractor to use on all their farms. Two men organized to share drill and plow. Six men bought a co-operative manure spreader to enrich their fields.

In the cut-over timber land of the North, men chipped in to buy bulldozers to pull the stumps from their fields.

Health Meant Wealth

Going over the loans that went bad, FSA found out that 50 per cent of the families who could not make a go of their new farms were suffering ill health. The man who leaned on his plow 10 minutes at the end of each furrow—his neighbors called him lazy—had a painful hernia. He had never seen a doctor. When he got fixed up, he stopped leaning and plowed. He paid back the loan.

But ill health was widespread among the families raised on a "hog and hominy" diet, the FSA learned. So FSA urged them to set aside a garden for fresh vegetables—instead of planting cotton or corn right up to the bedroom window—and to buy a cow to put milk on the family table.

In the life of a cow family, the bull is an important fellow. But for a small farmer he would not earn his keep.

So new pools were organized, providing a single well-bred father for the neighborhood herds. The same was done with mules in the South and with horses in the West.

The thing was worked the same way with bulls as with machines. Sometimes one man signed the Government's note, and took full responsibility for the animal.

In other cases, a group of farmers jointly bought the full, assigned him to one of their number for care, and sold his use to others nearby who would benefit.

The Scheme Worked

FSA officials declare the scheme has worked. Few reports of squabbles have come in. On plowing, the neighbors draw lots for their turn at the joint machine. Or the farms are plowed and harrowed in turn, according to the moisture in the soil.

Another attack on the health problem is FSA's medical co-operatives. Working through county medical associations, the FSA has helped provide doctors' care for more than 120,000 low-income farmers. Each family pays in about $2 a month. When sickness comes, the family is free to call any doctor in the county.

At the end of the month, the doctors present their bills to their own committee, and the bills are met from the sums collected from the farmers.

In some communities, families down and out a few years ago have started uphill together in co-operative townships—where buying, selling, healing, breeding, plowing and harvesting are all affected by the Government-guided co-ops.

FSA officials, who believe that farming practices have changed more in the last 10 years than in any similar period, hope that such experiments will help the small farmer keep his head up in competition with large-scale scientific

PRICES OF COTTON CONTINUE TO DROP

Active Old-Type Contracts on Exchange Here Off 6 to 11 Points on Week

HEDGING IS MAJOR FACTOR

Sales by Foreign Interests to Undo Straddles Also Noted —Buying by Mills

Although the downward trend in cotton prices continued last week, the declines were followed by rallies, and price changes for the week were small. On the New York Cotton Exchange active old-type contracts showed net losses for the week of 6 to 11 points.

A major factor in the market was the selling of futures contracts as hedges against the new crop. Harvesting and movement of the new crop are increasing daily and will not reach their peaks until next month. An unusual spell of fair weather throughout the Cotton Belt has facilitated picking and ginning and so has speeded the movement.

Selling in the week included also substantial sales by foreign interests, particularly from Bombay, in the undoing of straddles. Indian traders have carried a large long interest in the New York market in recent months against a short interest in Bombay and the large decline in the exchange value of the rupee, together with other developments resulting from the war, has led Bombay to close out many of these commitments. Prices at Bombay have risen to unusual levels relative to prices at New York.

There was continued active buying of futures contracts last week by domestic merchants and mills for price-fixing purposes.

Crop developments continue to be a subject of much less market attention than usual at this time of the year, since they are far overshadowed by repercussions of the war.

Speculative trading was in smaller volume last week than in recent previous weeks, but there was a fair amount of such trading on both the selling and buying sides. Liquidation was induced by prospects of continued large hedging and some revisions of ideas as to the statistical situation. Buying was brought into the market by the facts that prices have declined greatly from the high levels reached earlier in the month and that prices of distant deliveries are close to levels at which a government loan would be mandatory, as well as by inflationary ideas induced by the war. Traders are watching particularly export developments, since they constitute one of the most uncertain phases of the situation.

Relationships between prices of cotton in domestic and foreign markets continue to be distorted by current abnormal conditions, particularly with respect to foreign exchange, transportation costs and inflationary possibilities. Prices of United States cotton at Liverpool are much higher relative to prices at New York than they were a few weeks ago. Prices of Indian cotton in India and in other foreign markets have risen sharply relative to prices of United States cotton abroad.

WAR IS CALLED BLOW TO COTTON

Sales Of American-Made Textiles May Offset Only Part Of Loss

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 26—(AP)—European war has dealt a severe blow to this country's cotton exports that will be only partially offset by increased exports of American-made textiles, President Oscar Jhonston of the National Cotton Council, said here Tuesday.

The Shaw, Miss., cotton authority expressed belief the 1939 export of cotton from the United States would not exceed 4,500,000 bales, compared to the 6,000,000 predicted before the outbreak of hostilities.

America, he said, will have to compete with Japan for textile markets vacated by warring Britain. Johnston predicted, however, a boom in domestic consumption to approximately 8,500,000 bales, thus making a total consumption exceeding the current crop.

"In the recent past," said the Mississippian, "we have virtually lost the German market. Now we have lost as a cotton consumer Czecho-Slovakia, Austria and Poland.

"Unless ways and means can be developed for marketing cotton in Central Europe, we shall find it difficult, if indeed it is possible, to maintain our exports and foreign consumption above 4,000,000 to 4,500,000 bales."

He expressed doubt the cotton subsidy plan would "materially aid."

The current year's export and questioned "the wisdom of continuing the subsidy in the future."

FOR THE FARMER

Courier 3-25-39

A Column Dedicated to the Farmers of the United States and Their Problems

By H. L. PRICE
Agricultural Editor

The Negro is, primarily, a product of the soil. Farming and farm problems are things of vital concern to him. With this thought in mind, The Pittsburgh Courier has secured the able services of H. L. Price to interpret and clarify the many new laws and regulations which affect the farmer.

This new feature, we feel will serve to instruct and educate our farmers. Read it. Tell your friends about it. If you have any questions to ask, write Mr. Price. He will be glad to answer.—The Editors.

THE LANDLORD AND THE TENANT

Unfortunately under the governmental farm program of the last six years there has grown up, in many instances, an unfriendly misunderstanding between some landlords and their tenants over the distribution of the various government benefits to farmers. This bone of contention is causing some considerable unpleasantness in the South where king cotton used to reign supreme. Many landlords are substituting modern machinery and hired labor for tenant labor. This is being done in most cases to enable the landlords to get all of the government benefits. This arrangement is leaving a number of tenants without homes and without land to work. This is an unfortunate situation that is working to the disadvantage, not only to both the landlords and the tenants, but to the entire cotton growing section, a section which embraces practically all of the Southern States. The voluntary association of landlords and tenants has existed in this country ever since its foundation and we regret to see anything being brought about that will tend to disturb this age-old relationship, a relationship that must exist here among us long after government benefits have become a thing of the past. The landlords needs the tenants' labor to work their surplus and the tenants need this surplus land to work, therefore it should be up to the two contracting parties to get together under a mutual agreement that would be satisfactory to both contracting parties. The tenant must have suitable land to work so that he can support himself and family, but you can not force the landlords to rent him land by the flat of the law, therefore the landlords and the tenants should be allowed to adjust their own differences in a manner satisfactory to both sides.

In the discussion of this very disagreeable subject we shall not attempt to point out who is right or who is wrong, but we are looking at the results that have accrued and that are likely to accrue from a continuance of this system in its present form, allowing our readers to draw their own conclusions. These tenants who have been forced to quit farming because they had no land to work and those who will be forced to quit under a continuance of the present system, must have something to do or they will be forced to seek relief through charitable breadlines. Many of them of course will be used on the farms as wage hands, but what will become of those who can not be used in this way? Many of these displaced tenants have large families and they need to grow a living on the farm instead of buying a living out of the store. When a family is growing its living on the farm, each member of the family, who is large enough to work, can contribute his part towards balancing the family budget, but when this family quits farming, some of its members who were an asset on the farm immediately becomes a liability.

We are not opposed to the giving of governmental benefits to the farmers, on the other hand we favor every help that can be given him, but we think that the government and the farmers should get together and work out some mutual plan on which both the landlord and the tenant can stand together; a plan that would cause both parties to a rental contract, or a lease, to work together for each others mutual benefit. We know that our rental system needs changing and improving but we think that this can be done better by the landlords and the tenants getting together, man to man, and having a heart to heart talk over conditions and evolve out of these mutual understandings a plan of future procedure that will be satisfactory to all concerned. These plans can be arranged by the farmers themselves in their farmers' meetings and farmers' organizations at home and in their State and National meetings, better than they can be arranged at Washington or at the State capitols.

The government seems to be trying to do all that it can for the farmers of the whole United States and the farmers seem to need all the help that they can get from any source, but the relation between the landlords and tenants is a very delicate one to legislate upon and along this line we see the need of the greatest caution; caution to prevent misunderstanding, caution to prevent friction and caution to prevent the disruption of the friendly relation heretofore existing between land owners and tenants.

In making a survey of the tenancy question and the ill-feeling that is gradually developing between the land owners and their tenant we find the following bone of contention between them: 1—The landlords contend that since they bought the land, pay all the taxes, keep up all repairs, furnish living quarters, water and wood and stand for or furnish the supplies for making the crop, that it is not fair for the tenant to get as much or more of the government benefits as they get. 2—On the other hand, the tenants claim that since they are required to reduce their crop acreage that they have usually been planting to money crops, thereby reducing their yearly income from the farm in the same proportion, it is but right that they should receive government benefits in the same proportion to their loss in farm income. They claim that if the acreage had not been cut they would have received one-half or two-thirds and three-fourths of the income from the proceeds of the cut acreage.

We have presented our readers with the contentions on both sides the landlords' and the tenants', and now we leave you to draw your own conclusions as to the righteousness of the respective claims. Regardless of these contentions we advise our farmer friends to work together in harmony, to avoid friction and to build up strong farmers organizations among them composed of all classes of farmers from the day laborer to the big land owner. For the farmers to demand legislation that will help them in general, they must have strong farmers' organizations with a numerical strength large enough to command the respect of the lawmakers both at Washington and the various State capitols. If the farmers, both black and white, can not get together and present a solid front with a united demand for the legislation that they want, they will forever remain hewers of wood and drawers of water. The organized wealth of this country cares nothing of the color of the man's skin that they are exploiting, hence the absolute necessity for all poor men to stand together for their mutual protection, regardless of race or color.

We are pleased to note that the white farmers in the South are working hard to organize the Negro farmers into the different farmers' organizations in that section. In most cases they are joining the same local organizations and meeting in the same meeting places without any friction, this shows that the white farmer has found out that he and the Negro farmer are sinking in the same boat together and to save himself he must save his Negro brother. In our present farm set-up, the white farmer and black farmer meet together, plan together, vote on farming activities together and work for the general advancement of the general farming family. For these reasons we urge the Negro farmers in all sections where they are treated like this to line up with their white neighbors and help them to put over a constructive program that will make for the uplift of all farmers in all sections of this great country.

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CONDITION OF

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WHAT THE NEW DEAL HAS DONE FOR THE COTTON FARMERS OF THE SOUTH

Globe 4-28-39 Nashville

No section of our country has been so religiously wedded to the alphabeticalisms of the New Deal as the South. The South has followed blindly and biasly the regimentation of private business by the Government at Washington, only to find out that Government control of private business, is Communism in disguise. The South has driven its best men from public life, because they dared to warn the Nation of the dangers of centralization of power in Washington, and that unaware, the administration at Washington was taking over local government from the States. That every time the State accepted a dollar from the Federal Government, the state vacated a right the Federal Constitution guaranteed it, and that gifts or loans from centralized power, was repugnant to home rule. The South sold out to Washington, for a mess of pottage, and the man, who had the moral courage to criticize the gamble, signed his own political death warrant, if the President said he did not speak his language, as he said of Senator George of Georgia.

The National Cotton Council of America, writes the Union-Review as follows: We could send you a book-length treatise on the plight of cotton, and a very disheartening story it would tell. Instead we are simply reminding you that whereas in 1928, the world took 7,529,000 bales of American cotton, it is now taking less than 4,000,000 bales; that whereas the output of rayon in 1928, was equivalent to 738,000 bales, it is now equivalent to 4,505,000 bales; and that whereas foreign production in 1928 was 11,331,000 bales, it is now 17,339,000.

Since the New Deal took over in 1933, foreign production has increased, 5,750,000 bales, and consumption increased 6,000,000 bales; whereas home production has decreased 1,000,000 bales and export trade decreases 5,000,000 bales, putting millions of cotton laborers on the unemployed list, and finally on the relief rolls, to be fed by the tax payers of the country. In 1933, the Government had 2,225,000 bales surplus cotton, it had no market for, having loaned the farmers money on it. Today the Government has 11,500,000 bales of surplus cotton, for which it has no market. 9,225,000 bales of which accumulated under the New Deal, and with the estimated crop of 12,000,000 for 1939, added to the surplus of 11,500,000 bales; we have on the market 23,500,000 bales of American cotton, with both foreign production and consumption increasing, and American production and consumption decreasing. What are we going to do to save the American cotton growers? Let them head into bankruptcy, and imperil the life of every other business and industry in America? Is the country just going to remain democratic as a monument to race prejudice and let us all go to economic and political perdition together, where we all without regard to race or color, can eke out equality of poverty and human misery?

A change of administration at Washington is the remedy. Capital will not come out of hiding until the people set up an administration at Washington, that business has confidence in, and one that will not be always talking about war to disturb and unsettle business conditions. Recovery depends upon putting the idle to work; and the idle will have no work until business begins to expand. And there will be no expansion of business as long as business is afraid of the Government at Washington, which it has a right to look to for protection. So after all the Administration at Washington holds the key to recovery, and unless it unlocks the door to prosperity by taking its hand off business, and stop competing with business there will be no recovery or prosperity.

—Union-Review

Hazlehurst, Ga., Cracker
May 11, 1939

OWNERSHIP AND USE OF LAND

The farming South depends on cotton and tobacco for two-thirds of its cash income. More than half of its farmers depend on cotton alone. They are one-crop farmers, subjected year after year to risks which would appall the average businessman. All their eggs are in one basket—a basket which can be upset, and often is, by the weather, the boll weevil, or the cotton market.

The boll weevil can be conquered, and weather hazards tend to cancel themselves out as good seasons follow bad; but the cotton market is a sheer gamble. On this gamble nearly 2,000,000 southern families stake their year's work and everything they own. Their only chance of making a living is tied up with the fluctuations of the world price of cotton.

No other similar area in the world gambles its welfare and the destinies of so many people on a single crop market year after year.

The gamble is not a good one. Few other crops are subject to such violent and unpredictable price variations as cotton. In 1927 cotton farmers got 20 cents a pound for their crop; in 1929 they get 16 cents; in 1931 they got 6 cents; in 1933 they got 10 cents. Only once during the last decade did the price of cotton change less than 10 percent between pickings. Three times in 5 years it jumped more than 40 percent—once up and twice down.

Because cotton is the cornerstone of the economy of many parts of the South, the merchants, manufacturers, businessmen, and bankers share the hazards of the farmer. The men who finance cotton farming charge high interest rates because their money is subject to far more than the normal commercial risk. As a result, the mortgage debt of southern farm owners has been growing steadily for the last 20 years. A check-up on 46 scattered counties in the South in 1934 showed that one-tenth of the farm land was in the hands of corporations, mostly banks and insurance companies, which had been forced to foreclose their mortgages.

This process has forced more than half of the South's farmers into the status of tenants, tilling land they do not own. Whites and Negroes have suffered alike. Of the 1,831,000 tenant families in the region, about 66 percent are whites. Approximately half of the sharecroppers are white, living under economic conditions almost identical with those of Negro sharecroppers.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 20, 1939

Elements Of Coercion Thought Present In Southern Farming

GREENVILLE, S. C., May 19.—(AP—Dr. Arthur Raper, of Atlanta, research and field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, asserted today the South, "along with the rest of the nation and the world now faces a choice between cooperation and coercion."

In an address prepared for the Southeastern region conference on cooperation, Dr. Raper declared Southern agriculture, "with slavery as a background", had never achieved cooperation and added that "elements of coercion are evident in much of the South's industry."

"When the rank and file of the people participate responsibly in community affairs," he said, "the basis of cooperation is being laid down.

"When the rank and file of the people are inarticulate recipients of practices and policies which they themselves do not determine, coercion is already at hand."

Dr. Raper added that Americans needed "to cooperate with nature to conserve our natural resources and to cooperate with each other to develop our human resources."

Representative government and religious freedom, he asserted, were most "securely established in those communities and countries where the greatest progress has been made in the cooperative production and distribution of goods."

Further, Dr. Raper said, "in our modern world, democracy is the normal political expression where people work together voluntarily, just as some form of Fascism is the normal political expression where people work together because they are forced to."

What About Rural Housing?

While the Negro housing situation is receiving attention these days from city government, improvement associations and Negro leaders of Oklahoma City, care should be taken that we do not see the entire picture through the glasses of the city lot owner. As a matter of fact it appears to the Black Dispatch that the solution heretofore has been largely left to the devise and discretion of those who have selfish and venal objectives and not calculated to give substantial relief to the persons most vitally affected.

Good roads and a car make it possible for both men and women to work in the city and maintain their residence in the rural sections. We know a fine young man who is raising a family out near Spencer, twelve miles east of Oklahoma City, but who works every day at the post office. In a recent conversation this man said: "I wanted to get my boys out of the alley environment where they were bound to be ruined if I live in Oklahoma City. We have a modern home out in the rural sections, a fine schoo and I can be certain that my boys are surrounded practically every minute of the day by a wholesome atmosphere."

Now here is a man with what might be called common horse sense. Conditions would be better in Oklahoma City were municipal government willing to supply wholesome recreation facilities for Negroes comparable with what is furnished white youth. As it is, the average Negro boy in Oklahoma City, whose parents work, is forced to find his every day fun in the alley. A fine country home would take these children during their early, impressionable years out of such an unwholesome atmosphere.

Another thing a lot of people are not thinking about: The average city home is something which must be kept up and in repair from the moment it is purchased on through the life of the individual who possesses it. A progressive man with a few children could reverse this relationship of the home, on a tract of land of from three to five acres. Living near the city on a five-acre tract would permit the bread winner to work in the city, while at the same time the five-acre tract would provide for a few cows, hogs, chickens, and a garden. One can raise 300 bushels of sweet potatoes on an acre of sandy land. He can have a half-acre of fruit and in all, an independent existence can be maintained. It is not what one makes, it is what one saves that counts. Such a life would make it possible for a thrifty man to save practically all of his salary. At home he would raise his butter, eggs, lard, meat, fruit, vegetables with a little surplus to sell. This writer raised one year 750 bushels of sweet potatoes on slightly less than three acres of land since he has been in the newspaper game. We make this statement so that no one who reads these lines will think that we are dreaming.

It takes a sensible man to live on the farm. You know the old adage that "any fool can farm." It is quite the opposite. This writer built and paid for an eight-room story and one half California bungalow out of the profits of vegetables sold in one year. What one man can do others may accomplish with a little hustle and thrift.

Another thought: City property is not going to be as valuable as it once was if efforts to decentralize city populations continue. Every trend of government today is towards turning our urban population back into the rural areas. This is the reason why that federal and state agencies are working day and night to take modern conveniences to the farm. Power, light, telephone, gas when actually taken to rural life, will start the trend in the right direction and where will Mr. Negro land in such a changing scene? Decentralization of cities is going to make it possible for people to find work more frequently in rural areas. It is going to do more than that; it is going to develop an interchange of goods in rural areas. That is to say the man who lives in the country on a five-acre tract is going to be able to make an independent living selling his products raised on his plot of ground to his neighbors.

While federal statistics show that all over America there has been a general trend of the Negro population towards urban life, the alarming fact is that in Oklahoma we find the situation most acute. Twenty-two percent of the Oklahoma Negroes living on farms have moved to the cities in the past ten years.

This condition results from a short-sighted, emergency economy. Poor crops and reduced prices for farm commodities, together with miseducation in our public school setup have been the major contributing factors. If Negroes had deep-seated in their body politic a long range planned economy such an unfortnuate condition would not be developing.

A five-acre tract near some urban center holds more of old age security than any city lot. Those who have in mind the purchase of a home should know this. Reduced to simplest terms, one must forever be keeping up the city property. It is always an expense from the day you purchase it until you die. The country acres will, if managed right, pay your current bills and provide for an independent status.

Lack of Good Farms Retards Rural Youth

Employment Opportunities Also Scarce

WPA Research In South Tells of Lean Prospects

A GROWING surplus of young persons in rural areas during recent years has lessened their chances to acquire their own property and widen their outlook towards independence.

The Works Progress Administration research workers have come to this conclusion in a report issued under the title of "Rural Youth, Their Situations and Prospects."

The migration of the Negro from farms in the South during the 1920-30 exodus includes many young people. This movement, however, was not sufficient to reduce the proportion of the total Negro rural population, the report indicates.

Because of this, together with inadequate economic opportunities and poorer schooling, it is revealed that the situation of the Negro youth in rural regions is graver than that of his white neighbor.

MIGRATION CAUSES

Increase in farm tenancy, the decreased demand for farm laborers and the trends toward large-scale and absentee land ownership, and mechanization of agriculture have reduced a number of good farms available. Meanwhile, the number of young men desiring their own farms is in excess of both land and opportunities which would make for security among rural youth, it is reported.

Need for employment opportunities for farm youth is more than that of the non-farm group in their respective areas. Thus the situation is found complicated by race, as the WPA report shows that Negro youth make up more than 50 per cent of all farm youth in Arkansas, Mississippi and South Carolina.

Forty per cent of all farm youth are Negroes in Georgia and Louisiana. In eight other States the percentages indicate that the problem of the young Negro in rural areas is more likely to be localized on farms than in the villages.

900,000 OUT OF SCHOOL

With the lack of available high schools for Negroes in rural sections, some 900,000 Negroes of high school age are not in school. Arkansas and Mississippi have enrolled only 4.7 of the Negro population in secondary schools. Five other States report less than 10 per cent high school enrollment.

In 15 southern states, 230 counties have a population of 159,000 Negroes between 15 and 19 years of age, but no high school facilities for colored pupils within their boundaries, the report points out. In these same 15 states there are 195 more counties which have no four-year high schools for Negroes, though the total numberf of members of the race of high school age is nearly 200,000 persons.

Added to little or no high school facilities for Negro youth in the rural south, is the general problem of poor school attendance. In the Southeast section of the United States, the school attendance of the 16 and 17 year old farm group was below the national average of 52.0 per cent. Florida, Tennessee and Mississippi are reported as the only exceptions. Within these more "favorable states," however, the Negro youth shows up again as the disadvantaged group.

The WPA research study also reveals that many whites as well as Negro youth between the ages of 16 and 17 are still in the grades. The opposite of such retarded learning is to be found in Minnesota and Wisconsin where most of the youth in this age group are in high school.

HIGH ILLITERACY

States with a high percentage of surplus youth, including numbers of Negroes and Mexicans, are found to have a high percentage of illiteracy. In the south Atlantic states over 8 per cent of all rural farm youth between the ages of 15 and 24 were illiterate, the report continues.

"Areas with the largest proportion of children have the lowest income and the poorest schools. Rural youth attends school less frequently than urban youth, leave school earlier and have a higher proportion of retardation. They are the victims of glaring inequalities in education.

As late as 1930, five out of every 100 farm youths were unable to read and write, yet where facilities are available a large proportion of all rural youth attends school," says Assistant Administrator Corrington Gill in a summary statement published in the report.

While the depression has caused large number of urban youth to postpone marriage, it appears to have had little effect on marriages among rural youth both by color and residence. The WPA report shows that more Negroes than white youth were married in Urban, rural farm and rural non farm groups of the population More Negro young men in rural of the population. f;fi S-a1bmm farm than in rural non-farm regions were married. The reverse is true for young women of the race with exception of those 24 years of age.

GREAT DISPARITY

Turning to the participation of the youth in rural community organizations, the research study of the WPA says: "In certain selected rural areas of South Carolina, there appeared to be a more or less close relationship between educational attainment and economic status and the types and uses of leisure. The disparity was especially marked between Negroes and whites. Even the church does not serve all groups equally."

The National Youth Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, Cooperativ- Extension services of the Department of Agriculture, the Office of Education and the U. S. Employment Service are conducting constructive programs for rural youths, it is reported.

In addition to these government agencies there are numerous and varied non-government organizations. But these federal, state and private agencies have reached only a small proportion of the 7,000,000 rural out-of-school youth between the ages of 16 and 25 because of lack of sufficient funds, the WPA report states.

Birmingham, Ala. News
May 19, 1939

COOPERATION VS. COERCION, CHOICE

Speaker Says Agriculture, With Slavery Background, Has Not Progressed

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Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
August 19, 1939

Negroes As Farmers

County agents have done a valuable work in teaching Negro farmers, as well as many of the white farmers, to take an interest in other things than cotton; and it has been demonstrated in thousands of instances that the farmer whose primary objective is to live at home and raise all the food and feed he needs is on the average more comfortable than any other type of citizen. As some have expressed it, if he makes money-getting his one objective he will starve to death; but if he thinks of money as something to come only after he is assured that he will have plenty to eat, and that his animals will be properly fed and cared for, he has a better chance than almost any other citizen of like circumstances to live well, keep out of debt, and put aside some cash.

The report from the Federal government's resettlement project for Negroes near Montezuma indicates that each family operating with an average of two mules acquired nearly $1,000 during the first year. Statement is made by Project Manager Ward that each family came to the project completely stranded, having no clothes and no food. Yet with a little assistance and some supervision they made an average of nearly $600 in cash, and had an accumulation of nearly $400 worth of food and feed at the end of their first year's work. In what other business could they have obtained an equal income?

The white farmers who were given similar assistance at the Irwinville project have made an outstanding record, and more than twenty of them are said to have qualified as land purchasers.

Even among the farmers who do not get supervision and the easy credits allowed by the government, few fall below records like this provided they made first, all they need to eat, and next all their farm animals require.

Since the war that so devastated Georgia the man in the country has looked enviously upon the man who had a job in town; and all the children who could get an education in the country were taught that only in the towns and cities could they have to find opportunity in life. The reason for that unfortunate viewpoint was that the only markets dependably established were for cotton. Georgians had for generations devoted themselves to the production of a single crop a at time. At first all wanted to raise indigo, then it was discovered that Georgia could produce fine tobacco, and everybody dropped indigo and took up tobacco culture on lands where nobody recalls ever having heard of tobacco growing. They forgot about tobacco because its culture was foresaken when the cotton gin was developed. All quit tobacco and indigo and went to cotton. They shipped the cotton to New England and bought back the cloth, paying transportation charges both ways. Then they bought their meat and meal, flour, coffee, sugar, tobacco, beef, mutton, pork, chickens, eggs and work animals and all they wanted to wear, and paid high transportation charges from other States. The cotton buyer had one pay day in the year, and that necessitated a credit system on which were pyramided interest charges that would have wiped out long ago any other industry in the world. Many farmers had to pay pawnbrokers' rates and more for the accommodation required.

The livestock and live-at-home programs eliminate that ruinous credit system, and farmers who strive for 12 pay days a year instead of one, are finding a prosperity that has never before been known in Georgia rural life.

The diversification that has been preached for nearly 200 years is at last being realized —Macon Telegraph

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

FOR THE FARMER

A Column Dedicated to the Farmers of the United States . . . and Their Problems

By H. L. PRICE
Agricultural Editor

The Negro is, primarily, a product of the soil. Farming and farm problems are things of vital concern to him. With this thought in mind, The Pittsburgh Courier has secured the able services of H. L. Price to interpret and clarify the many new laws and regulations which affect the farmer.

This new feature, we feel will serve to instruct and educate our farmers. Read it. Tell your friends about it. If you have any questions to ask, write Mr. Price. He will be glad to answer.—The Editors.

Courier

THE SOUTHERN NEGRO ON THE FARM

His Problems and What the FSA Is Doing About Them

Farming is both a business and a way of life for half of all Negroes in America. Ninety-five per cent of all Negro farm operators are in the South, and more than three-fourths of these are tenants. Farm tenants fall, roughly, into three classes:

1—Sharecroppers, who contribute labor only, receiving in return a share of the crop.

5-28-39

2—"Third and fourth" tenants, who supply equipment and bear some managerial responsibility and receive larger shares of the crop according to their contribution of feed, fertilizer, and equipment, a third of the corn and a fourth of the cotton being a common rental.

3—"Standing renters," who rent the land outright, paying for its use either in cash or produce.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

In the South, one-half of all sharecroppers are Negroes. The number of Negro croppers exceeds the number of white croppers in Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Mississippi has three and one-half times as many Negro as white croppers. Louisiana has twice as many. In other states where the actual number of Negro croppers is less than the number of white croppers the proportion of croppers within the racial group is much larger among Negroes than among whites. In Kentucky, for instance, where 30,258 white croppers constitute only 30 per cent of white tenants the 2,736 Negro croppers are 65 per cent of Kentucky's Negro tenants. Other states show even higher proportions. Mississippi's Negro tenants are 71 per cent sharecroppers, and 82 per cent of all Georgia's Negro tenants are in this class. Half of all Negro children growing to manhood and womanhood on Southern farms face the drudgery and neglect typical of most croppers' children of any race.

Chief among the evils which the poor man on the farm—small owner, tenant or laborer—has to face are POOR HOUSING, HIGH MORTALITY, INSECURITY AND DEBT.

Bad housing and sanitation are reflected in hookworm and anemia. Faulty diets result in pellagra. The yearly toll from death and disease adds to the burden of indebtedness, while beneath all these hurtful conditions lies the menace of insecurity, crippling both landlord and tenant in any effort toward progress.

What is the Farm Security Administration and What Is It Doing to Correct Such Conditions Where They Exist?

A. What It Is:

1—It is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, set up to help the man on the farm who is "up against it" and is unable to get help elsewhere.

B. What It Does:

1—It provides low credit rates, releasing the needy farmer from the treadmill of exorbitant interest by making short-time loans of comparatively small amounts for periods of one to five years. With such a loan, the farmer buys essential farm needs—wagons, mules, milk cows, seed, fertilizer, etc. Included in the loan are reserve funds sufficient to carry the farm family through a crop year with food and clothing, without resort to the "furnish" merchant. Farmers obtaining these loans cooperate with Farm Security Administration farm and home management supervisors in making and carrying out PLANS for each year's operations.

a. Article one of any plan calls for the production at home of adequate food to supply the farm family with a properly balanced diet, thus cutting down the incidence of dietary diseases and improving general health.

b. Article two of any farm plan calls for the production at home of ample feed for the livestock, increasing the value of the stock and conserving cash.

c. Article three of any farm plan calls for the conservation of the soil by approved farm practices in crop rotation, planting of cover crops and erosion control.

Through "rehabilitation" loans, families are learning to keep their books, make their budgets, and live within them. Approximately 50,000 such loans, representing 12.5 per cent of the total, have been made to Negro farmers in the past three years. Negro farmers are 12.6 per cent of America's farm operators.

2—It enables selected renters, sharecroppers or farm laborers with energy, ambition and a good record to become established as owners on desirable land through long-time loans in larger amounts, amortized for 40 years. COOPERATIVE SUPERVISION IS A PART OF ALL LOAN AGREEMENTS. For the first year of operation of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act—1937-38—265 loans were made to Negro tenants, constituting 18.6 per cent of the total for Regions IV, V, VI and VIII where Negroes on farms are found in appreciable numbers. Negro tenancy in this area is 34.1. Applications for 1937-38 were 19.3 per cent of the total, for this year 26.4.

a. In actual figures there were five times as many Negro applications this year as last year—26,989 vs. 5,089. Figures for whites rose proportionately.

3—It is setting up desirable patterns for American farm life through the establishment of homestead projects as new cooperative communities and as infiltration projects in existing communities. More than 1,000 Negro families were living on such projects in January, 1939.

a. Farmsteads on these projects are provided with houses,

barns and outhouses and all necessary farming needs. Representatives of the Farm Security Administration guide these homesteaders in their activities, exactly as FSA rehabilitation (short-time loan) clients are guided.

b. In addition to this assistance, project farmers learn to farm cooperatively—cooperative stores, gins and marketing services are acquainting them with the benefits of cooperatives, which have heretofore made comparatively little impression on American agriculture.

c. Negro farmers, together with all others, are profiting by this experience. They are established on 31 projects in 13 Southeastern States.

4—It is approaching the problem of tenancy, also, by the establishment of rental-cooperatives, through which organized tenants can improve their tenureship and living conditions by leasing large tracts of land through Government (FCA) loans, and operating them cooperatively, usually with an option to buy within a given period.

a. Thirty such rental cooperatives are being set up for operation in the Mississippi Delta area. Color ratio on these projects is determined by the need in the adjacent area.

b. Projects on which Negro youth can secure "interneships" in modern farm practices are pointing the way for the coming generation.

c. Through insistence on written leases covering longer periods of tenureship from its borrowers, another step toward the alleviation of the worst aspects of tenancy has been made, which is mutually beneficial to both owner and tenant, encouraging better housing and better land use.

5—The FSA supplies, without cost, debt adjustment service through volunteer committees, which save, since the inception of this service, sayed American farmers $78,807,693 in scaled-down debts.

a. There is no racial breakdown on these figures, but case histories on file at Farm Security Administration offices show that Negro farmers especially are benefiting by this service.

6—It offers community services to small groups of farmers who wish to act cooperatively in the purchase of livestock, heavy farm equipment and other needed services. Negroes are making increasing use of community services.

7—It is releasing land to its proper use by limiting loans to farmers established on land suitable for cultivation, and by assisting in the relocation of farmers situated on submarginal or cut-over lands.

a. It is restoring land to cultivation through erosion control by its clients, and by instructing and directing its borrowers in soil-building practices.

8—It is shaping patterns in rural education by providing adequate school buildings and equipment wherever possible, and securing the cooperation of State and County school authorities in supplying competent teaching staffs to carry out curricula carefully correlated with rural life. It is raising health standards through cooperative medical associations. Negro tenants particularly are welcoming this educational guidance.

9—It is supplying medical aid through the establishment of group medical care associations, which are supplanting fear, neglect and superstitution with skilled assistance.

III. How Is This Partnership Between the FSA and the Farmer Directed?

A. By close cooperation between FSA supervisors and borrowers, planning together for the development of each farm until affected: the cash crop, garden produce, canning, farm procedure, and setting up of farm bookkeeping, including budget and inventory.

IV. What Have Been the Results of This Partnership?

A. Increased self-respect as evidenced by repayments—not infrequently made ahead of time.

B. Increase in net worth.

C. General improvement in tenureship and in owner-tenant relationships.

D. Increased ownership.

E. Increased knowledge of modern agricultural procedures.

F. Improvement in health and living standards.

Lack of Income Swells Relief Rolls In Eastern, Western Cotton Belts

WASHINGTON, D. C.— Negro families in the Eastern and Western cotton belts were on relief more often than their white neighbors because of insufficient income or disability. The two races were about equal with regard to loss of jobs in ordinary employment. White families suffer relatively more from unemployment than do Negro families, but more Negroes who are working than whites are not receiving enough pay to provide a livelihood.

These and other typical conditions among relief families and reasons for their economic difficulties in rural areas since 1930, are outlined in a National Research Project report entitled "Rural Families on Relief," just issued by Colonel F. C. Harrington, Works Progress administrator. The report was published by the WPA Division of Social Research, directed by Howard B. Myers.

"A higher proportion of Negro than white households consisted of broken families," the WPA report states. "The difference is explained by the fact that relief was not given to Negroes as freely as to whites either in amounts or proportions related to needs. Many landlords gave subsistence only to working members of Negro families, and the non-working aged members not able to secure help from their relatives turned to relief."

SPLITTING FAMILIES

In the entire cotton belt, Negro families receiving relief had many more persons 65 years of age and older than did white families. Discussing this difference, the WPA research report turns to A. R. Mangus' study entitled "The Rural Negro on Relief."

"The practice of 'splitting' families'," says the Mangus report, "may account in part for the small relief benefits received by Negro cases in rural areas. In many instances landlords are willing to 'take care of' the productive members of their tenant families by shifting the care of aged dependent members to the relief agency, hence one or two members of the tenant or cropper family may receive small relief benefits while the other members of the household receive support from the landowners."

Chronically poverty stricken families were found to be dependent on the commercial family and suffered from the latter's reversse. In this distressed rural group are a majority of Negroes who make up the sharecropping and tenant farming population in rural regions of the Cotton Belt. This group has been unable to raise the necessary food for home consumption.

Of the heads of rural relief families, the WPA report says that in June 1937, Negro family heads were much older than white family heads on the average. In the Eastern cotton areas th edifferent was 4.9 years and in the Western cotton areas 7.5 years.

SITUATION COMPLICATED

The situation of the Negro in the rural South was found to be further complicated by the level of education among relief families. The median school grade completed by heads of Negro families in the Eastern cotton areas was only 2.9 years, the WPA report reveals. The school grade completed by white heads of families in the same region was 5.9 years.

Fewer Negroes were reported as among the "depression migrant" classes. On a whole, rural families of the race were found to be more stable than their white neighbor.

Considered according to the proportion of families which lives less than one year in the same county, white rural families were again seen to be more mobile than Negro. There were from three to five times as many whites as Negro families among "depression migrants."

Carle C. Zimmerman of Harvard University, and Nathan L. Whetten of Storrs Agricultural Experimental Station, are the authors of this latest WPA research report.

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(Concluded From Last Week)

The Government's success in helping such destitute families rehabilitate themselves may be measured by several simple yardsticks. From a purely financial point of view, the program has proved surprisingly sound. Although much of the $169,312,000 advanced under the rehabilitation program will not fall due for four or five years, more than $45,000,000 already has been repaid. Approximately 42,500 families had paid back their loans in full by February 1, 1938.

Many other borrowers not only have paid all their installments on time, but also have made substantial payments in advance. In Oregon, for example, payments have totalled 113 per cent of maturities, while Wisconsin rehabilitation clients have repaid 152 per cent of the sum due. In general, collections have fallen seriously behind only in the so-called dust bowl area and in such states as the Dakotas, which have suffered a prolonged and devastating drought. Despite the fact that not one of our 600,000 borrowers was considered a safe commercial risk, it has been conservatively estimated that approximately 80 per cent of the money advanced to them eventually will be returned to the Federal Treasury.

Perhaps an even more significant indication of the program's success is the rise in living standards of rehabilitation borrowers. A recent survey of 230,000 such families throughout the nation showed that their average net worth—over and above all debts—had increased $253 between the time they first sought aid and the end of the 1937 crop year. This represents a growth in net assets of 42 per cent, or more than $58,000,000.

In addition, these families have almost doubled their consumption of home-produced meat, milk and eggs, and have stored away 63,356,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables—an average of 53 quarts per person—to tide them through the winter. Their ownership of work animals has increased approximately 100 per cent, while their acreage in livestock feed and forage crops has risen 50 per cent. One of the most gratifying facts of all is that the mounting prosperity and stability of these families has made it possible for nearly 160,000 children to increase their school attendance.

In some areas, notably several southern states, the rise in living standards has been still more striking. For instance, in Rusk County, a fairly typical Texas community, the net assets of 660 rehabilitation borrowers increased approximately ten-fold between 1935 and 1937, growing from an estimated $30 to about $345. In the drought ravaged states of the northern great plains, on the other hand, little gain in cash resources has been possible, although home production of food has increased sharply.

Government lending, no matter how generous, could never have accomplished such results, if it had not been coupled with a careful system of supervision. There is abundant evidence that plentiful credit, in itself, is no panacea for rural distress. For example, during the 15 years between 1920 and 1935 farmers operating their own property increased their average mortgage indebtedness from 29 per cent of the property's full value to more than 50 per cent. Yet, this sharp increase in debt load was accompanied by an almost continual decline in farm prosperity.

Rehabilitation borrowers, in particular, probably would have obtained little permanent benefit from a mere-out-pouring of Government credit. The great majority were no more handicapped by lack of cash than by lack of training in how to use such resources as they may have had. Many of them belong to that one-third of our tenant population which moves on to another farm every year. Under such unstable conditions they have had little opportunity to take advantage of normal educational facilities. Ordinarily, they were accustomed to raising only one crop, using methods which had been handed down with little change through three or four generations. Their traditional tenure arrangement encouraged them to mine the soil for every penny of immediate cash return. It gave them little incentive to learn how to check erosion, plant soil-building crops, or keep farm buildings in repair, since another tenant would probably have the property next year.

There have been many indications that such borrowers have profited more from the guidance which accompanies their loans than from the money itself. Almost universally, they have welcomed the counsel and help of the FSA farm and home supervisors.

The typical supervisor is a practical dirt farmer, raised on a homestead not far from his headquarters and trained in the State Agricultural College. He is responsible for making and collecting loans from more than 100 clients scattered through from one to six counties, and for guiding these borrowers toward sound principles of farm management. He aids them in adjusting their debts and in obtaining long-term written leases, which assure them some share in the benefits of any permanent improvements they may make. When the borrower pays off his loan and becomes entirely self-supporting, the supervisor often helps him establish normal credit relationships with private lending agencies, and encourages him to continue his technical training with the Agricultural Extension Service and State College experts. The experience of the last three years has amply demonstrated that this type of supervision not only safeguards the Government's investment, but assures the borrower some prospect of permanent security. It is the best possible guarantee that his name will not appear again on the relief rolls.

Although the FSA lending program has directly benefitted more than 600,000 families, it has by no means met the full need for such service. County supervisors recently reported that they personally knew of more than 360,000 farmers eligible for rehabilitation loans who could not be helped because funds were not available. There is every reason to believe that the total number of families needing

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AGROCULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

FOR THE FARMER

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(Concluded From Last Week)

The Government's success in helping such destitute families re habilitate themselves may be measured by several simple yardsticks From a purely financial point of view the program has proved sur prisingly sound. Although much of the $169,312,000 advanced under the rehabilitation program will not fall due for four or five years more than $45,000,000 already has been repaid. Approximately 42,500 families had paid back their loans in full by February 1, 1939.

Many other borrowers not only have paid all their installments on time, but also have made substantial payments in advance. In Oregon, for example, payments have totalled 113 per cent of maturities while Wisconsin rehabilitation clients have repaid 152 per cent of the sum due. In general, collections have fallen seriously behind only in the so-called dust bowl area and in such states as the Dakotas, which have suffered a prolonged and devastating drought. Despite the fact that not one of our 600,000 borrowers was considered a safe commercial risk, it has been conservatively estimated that approximately 80 per cent of the money advanced to them eventually will be returned to the Federal Treasury.

Perhaps an even more significant indication of the program's success is the rise in living standards of rehabilitation borrowers. A recent survey of 230,000 such families throughout the nation showed that their average net worth—over and above all debts—had increased $253 between the time they first sought aid and the end of the 1937 crop year. This represents a growth in net assets of 42 per cent, or more than $58,000,000.

In addition, these families have almost doubled their consumption of home-produced meat, milk and eggs, and have stored away 63,356,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables—an average of 53 quarts per person—to tide them through the winter. Their ownership of work animals has increased approximately 100 per cent, while their acreage in livestock feed and forage crops has risen 50 per cent. One of the most gratifying facts of all is that the mounting prosperity and stability of these families has made it possible for nearly 160,000 children to increase their school attendance.

In some areas, notably several southern states, the rise in living standards has been still more striking. For instance, in Rusk County, a fairly typical Texas community, the net assets of 660 rehabilitation borrowers increased approximately ten-fold between 1935 and 1937 growing from an estimated $30 to about $345. In the drought ravaged states of the northern great plains, on the other hand, little gain in cash resources has been possible, although home production of food has increased sharply.

Government lending, no matter how generous, could never have accomplished such results, if it had not been coupled with a careful system of supervision. There is abundant evidence that plentiful credit, in itself, is no panacea for rural distress. For example, during the 15 years between 1920 and 1935 farmers operating their own property increased their average mortgage indebtedness from 29 per cent of the property's full value to more than 50 per cent. Yet, this sharp increase in debt load was accompanied by an almost continual decline in farm prosperity.

Rehabilitation borrowers, in particular, probably would have obtained little permanent benefit from a mere-out-pouring of Government credit. The great majority were no more handicapped by lack of cash than by lack of training in how to use such resources as they may have had. Many of them belong to that one-third of our tenant population which moves on to another farm every year. Under such unstable conditions they have had little opportunity to take advantage of normal educational facilities. Ordinarily, they were accustomed to raising only one crop, using methods which had been handed down with little change through three or four generations. Their traditional tenure arrangement encouraged them to mine the soil for every penny of immediate cash return. It gave them little incentive to learn how to check erosion, plant soil-building crops, or keep farm buildings in repair, since another tenant would probably have the property next year.

There have been many indications that such borrowers have profited more from the guidance which accompanies their loans than from the money itself. Almost universally, they have welcomed the counsel and help of the FSA farm and home supervisors.

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Although the FSA lending program has directly benefitted more than 600,000 families, it has by no means met the full need for such service. County supervisors recently reported that they personally knew of more than 360,000 farmers eligible for rehabilitation loans who could not be helped because funds were not available. There is every reason to believe that the total number of families needing rehabilitation and unable to obtain it is considerably larger.

Every effort is being made to reduce the grant load by helping There is another large group of destitute farmers who could not these families to rehabilitate themselves as quickly as weather conditions and other wisely be given rehabilitation loans even if money were available uncontrollable factors will permit. There is little Thousands of families living in drought areas have been refused loans however, that the grant program can be entirely eliminated because their land did not contain enough sub-soil moisture to justify prospect, within the predictable future.

planting a crop. Approximately 20,000 additional families have migrated from the dust bowl regions to the northwestern and Pacific In conclusion, I believe that two points are worthy of special emphasis:

Coast states. Many of these are earning a scanty hand-to-mouth living as farm laborers, while others have settled on acreages too small or too barren to provide a permanent support. It obviously would be both a waste of the Government money and an injustice to the borrower to attempt rehabilitation on such submarginal land, where failure is virtually certain.

1. The rehabilitation work cannot be carried on economically and with much hope of permanent results unless the Government's loans are accompanied by a sound system of technical guidance for the borrowers.

2. Although we feel that we have made a promising beginning in helping destitute farm families to become self-supporting, the job cannot be completed for many years. We are fighting an economic disease which has been neglected for generations, and we cannot hope to cure it over night.

Under such circumstances, therefore, the Farm Security Administration has made subsistence grants rather than rehabilitation loans. These grants are approved only in cases of extreme distress, and they have averaged approximately $20 per month per family, or barely enough to provide the necessities of life. From the beginning of the program until February 1, 1938, the total grant disbursement amounted to about $61,426,000, divided among approximately 500,000 families. During January, 1938, about 107,000 families were on the grant rolls; they received a total of $2,203,000.

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Manure Spreader

For livestock and dairy farmers, a new piece of equipment is the tractor-drawn manure spreader (steel or rubber-tired). These spreaders are driven from the rear supported by the tractor. The two-wheel speader is more easily handled when backing, or on short turns. The spreading mechanism can be started or stopped from the tractor seat. Tractor can be unhitched by pulling out the coupling pin, and without lifting the front end of the spreader.—(Farm Journal, April.)

Dairy Barns

Putting hay crops into the silo instead of the haymow is bringing about a change in dairy barn design. The new order of things make it possible to do away with the haymow, keep the dairy barn down to one story, lessen fire danger. Already some of the dairy equipment firms are selling all-metal dairy barns.—(Farm Journal, April.)

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LAMAR COUNTY, TEXAS

The storage of clothing has been the problem of 4-H Club girls this month. Since many parents are unable to purchase material to make closets from new lumber the girls have been taught to make closets using five orange crates and cretonne for a protection from dust and excess light. Two and one-half crates are used on each side. Between the two sides a broom handle is placed as a rod for hanging clothes. The crates form shelves to be used for linen, underwear, hats, etc. These shelves may be painted or covered with paper. The cretonne is made into a curtain to go around the front and side of the closet. Shoe racks will be made to use in the closet and some girls have made hat racks to keep the hats in shape.

Bindweed Control

Business Week (March 11) reports that "agricultural departments of every western state are now engaged in intensive campaigns to check the bindweed pest that has already taken a heavy toll from landowners. . . Most of the farm implement manufacturers have recently brought out special cultivators with duck-foot shares designed to cut bindweed roots off just below the ground. Ordinary disking will not do the trick. Cultivation must be carried on every two weeks during the growing season for three years. . . While some far loan firms will shy away from a property with a trace of bindweed on it, most of them, including the Federal Land Bank at Wichita, Kas., will consider loan applications if the owner agrees in writing to follow control measures recommended by federal-state weed laboratores. In making loans on infested farms, the Omaha Federal Land Bank makes doubly certain of eradication measures by setting aside a portion of the loan to be used for that purpose. Practically every western state has enacted some sort of bindweed control legislation. Considered a model, the Kansas law requires all property owners to clean their premises at their own expense. Counties may, with funds raised from special bindweed levies, furnish sodium chlorate to landowners at half cost. On the alert to stop spread of noxious weeds, seed inspection departments of several states report a sharp increase in the number of carlots of seed condemned because of bindwood contamination.

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Geese Used to Save Labor on Cotton Farms

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7—(ANP)—Hey Mr. Ripley—look at this—they are using Geese in some sections of the South as a labor saving device in cotton plantations! And that's part of a report sent to Dr. W. W. Alexander as the utmost truth.

It's this way. Geese like the tender shoots of crab grass that grow in the cotton fields, so Mr. Planter just gets a flock of geese and turns them loose in the cotton fields. They wander in, select a row of cotton and go through it carefully, each goose taking an individual row for his very own. They then assemble at the end of the rows and under their own leader, take another assignment being very careful not to touch the cotton plants, but giving full attention to the grass that hampers cotton growth. The goose service is very cheap, many planters relying upon them to do more work more efficiently than the hired hands.

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GENERAL

THREAT TO COTTON EXPORTS IS SEEN IN NEUTRALITY BILL

Restrictions to Keep U. S. Ships From War Zones Will Prevent Disposal of Surplus, Is Claim.

By GLADSTONE WILLIAMS.
Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—Severe restrictions placed upon American foreign commerce by proposals in the neutrality bill reported to the senate today are viewed as offering a heavy blow to the administration's pre-war program for achieving normal figures in the export of American cotton.

There were indications that the situation will engage the earnest attention of southern senators, some of whom are said to be convinced already that Sections 2 and 3 of the bill, prohibiting the movement of American cargoes in our own ships to belligerent nations or in designated combat zones, will have to be modified.

The restrictions, it is pointed out, will make it impossible for American ships to play any part in the movement of more than three-fourths of the American cotton that normally goes into our foreign trade.

Exports Decrease.

Whether England and France, in view of the war demands upon their own shipping, will be able to provide facilities for transporting our heavy cotton exports remains a doubtful question, except as regards their own immediate needs.

American exports of cotton have averaged 6,325,000 bales annually over a period of the past 10 years, according to figures furnished today by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

While recent years have seen a substantial falling off in shipments, due to world conditions and other economic factors, the administration through the Agricultural Department's new cotton-export subsidy program had set a goal of 6,000,000 bales for the current year.

Actually the export figures for the 1938-39 fiscal year, which ended in August, were only 3,326,000 bales, contrasted with 5,598,400 bales for the previous fiscal year.

British Biggest Buyer.

Taking the latter figures as a guide since they more closely approximate the average annual exports and compare favorably with the administration's export goal, the principal shipments of that fiscal year went to the following countries:

United Kingdom, 1,551,000 bales; France, 715,000 bales; Germany, 655,000 bales; Italy, 505,000 bales; Belgium, 189,000 bales; Netherlands, 116,000 bales; India, 141,000 bales; Japan, 690,000 bales, and Canada, 246,000 bales.

Presumably cotton shipments in American vessels will be barred to all of the foregoing countries under the stringent provisions of the neutrality bill with the exception of Japan and Canada.

And as regards Japan there is always the possibility that the President may yet exercise his discretionary authority to issue a proclamation covering the undeclared war between that country and China, which for reasons of our own has not been recognized. Such a proclamation would, under the pending bill, automatically cut off American shipping in the Sino-Japanese war zone.

War Zone Bars Neutrals.

Although Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands are maintaining positions as neutrals in the present European conflict, the movement of American cargoes in our own ships would be restricted nonetheless, it is held, because it would be imposible to reach their ports without passing through combat zones which the President is called upon to designate under the new bill.

Mitchell Still Sees Farm As Salvation

LAWRENCEVILLE, Va. —(ANP)—An audience of 1,200 from Brunswick county and surrounding territory crammed its way into the Chicago building of the St. Paul Normal and Industrial school here Friday afternoon, to pay honor to Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell and to listen to his formula for solution of the problems facing the race. Daily World

Leaders of the American Church institute, Dr Robert A. Patton, white, director; and Dr. Wallace A. Battle, field agent in charge of Episcopal church schools for Negroes; joined with the faculty, students and outstanding citizens from various sections of the state to make the event, which was sponsored by the St. Paul-Brunswick County committee, one of the most colorful demonstrations ever held in this section. 10-26-'39

A massed group of students waved American flags and cheered as the calvacade accompanying the only Negro sitting in the congress of the United States, arrived on the campus a few moments before the meeting began.

PLAYS FRAILTIES

Plunging into a vigorous and frocefful address, Congressman Mitchell flayed in characteristic manner many of the tendencies and frailties of the race as he spoke to the subject, "The Way Out For the American Negro." He pointed to elements in his own character which had contributed to his success and declared that the Negro as a minority in American life should study seriously what is happening to racial minorities in European countries and seek to avoid a smilar fate.

An editorial calling attention to the economic conditions facing the Negro and which had appeared in the Journal and Guide, whose editor and publisher, P. B. Young was a guest of honor, furnished the theme for the speaker.

America is a democracy said Mr. Mitchell "and as such it belongs to all human beings who are citizens regardless of the color of their skins. God made them all and I pay honor to white men not because of their color but because of the character they happen to possess."

RIDICULES BILBO

"We have been here almost as long as the white man", the congressman continue, pointing to the fact that not many miles from where he stood, the first white settlers had reached America in 1620 and that 12 years later, the first boat load of African slaves had arrived. "We did our share to make this country great", he declared as he ridiculed Senator Bilbo's bill to send Negroes to Africa, "and it would be both impolite and ungrateful to leave this country to which we came by invitation while the white race is in so much trouble."

"I am now, however, one of those who would curse the whites", said Mitchell. "Look what happened to the Jews in Germany and Poland. We are a minority too and we must learn to get along with them." Describing a situation at Hampton Institute where a student petition had demanded more jobs for graduates upon the faculty and in secretarial positions, Mr. Mitchell pointed out that white people had given the money to make Hampton and similar schools possible. He said that Negroes ought to reflect before they grow too strident in their demands. "Suppose the white people should say, 'we are not going to give any more money to Hampton,' what Negro will come forward with the first $100,000-" he inquired.

NEGRO WORST ENEMY

"The worst enemies of our race are the Negroes themselves," the speaker declared. "Negroes tear down institutions and then seek to tear down those who seek to build them. I am sorry that Negro newspapers cannot be excepted from that statement. They too tear down and besmirch." Mitchell, scolding, describing the failure of newspapers to agree with his policies and declaring that only one newspaper in the country had supported him consistently.

The speaker advocated Negroes leaving the cities and returning to farms. He said he would like to see 50,000 moved out of Chicago and back to the rural areas of the South. He did not go into detail regarding the present over population of the farms nor did he discuss the over-production which has so markedly depressed farm prices.

"We hear a lot about the small salaries paid to school teachers," he said, "but I wonder if the work and ability of those teachers can be described as small also? I want to see you teachers take charge of the minds of these children and encourage them to appreciate the beauties of rural life. Teach them that money is not everything and that service is far more important," the congressman said. He deplored that emphasis placed upon pugilistic achievement. "It is the man with the trained mind who counts" he said. "We must stop this blind hero worship of a man because he possesses a strong fist."

SPEAKER AT BANQUET

Dr. Wallace A. Battle presented the congressman whom he welcomed to the state of presidents and described as a friend of 30 year's standing. Dr. Robert A. Patton responded briefly to the address, declaring it to be one of the greatest utterances he had heard. Dean Peter S. Ridley of St. Paul served as master of ceremonies. Music was rendered by the men's chorus group of the school.

St. Paul proved an admirable host. A banquet filling its dining room was served in the early evening after which a country-wide dance was held in the congressman's honor. The schools of the county had been dismissed for the day and the entire corps of teachers and many of their students were present. Principal Russell who detailed in Detroit on business for the institution wired greetings.

Congressman Mitchell entrained for Washington after a breakfast during which many outstanding local citizens greeted him.

SOUTHERN FARMERS LOSE $11,000,000

Our national government under the present farm program pays the farmers to conserve and improve their farms, pastures, gardens and orchards and since this is paying the farmers to help themselves, we earnestly urge each one of our farmers readers to study carefully the advantages to be had by cooperating with these government plans. Read each issue of The Courier as our agricultural editor will discuss some phase of this plan in each succeeding issue of this paper.

During the last year the farmers lost more than eleven million dollars because they failed to follow the advice of this paper. This much of the whole amount set aside to pay benefits to farmers was returned to Washington because the farmers failed to do enough soil-building practices to cover this $11,000,000. When you think of the condition of our American farmers and how much they fret and complain about hard times and no money, it is hard for you to see how they can sit down and lose this $11,000,000 on account of not making the proper amount of improvements on their own farms to warrant the government in paying them this amount of money after it had already been allotted for such payments.

This paper is doing all that it can to educate our farmers along these lines by setting aside two columns in our paper each week for the discussion and explanation of our much complicated farm program and we urge our farmers to read our paper, and, if there is any question that they do not understand, we urge them to write to our agricultural editor, H. L. Price, Cuney, Texas, including a stamped envelope, and they will get a prompt reply. Our Mr. Price is a practical dirt farmer who lives in the deep south and has made a special study of our present farm program with its various loans, soil-building practices and government allowances. He is making a careful study of this farm program for the benefit of the readers of this paper and you can get the benefit of his study and experience by reading each copy of The Courier.

Truly A Grave Problem

American farm land is wearing out faster than it is being restored. Secretary Wallace makes that statement in announcing changes in various programs of the Department of Agriculture in an effort to increase their effectiveness in conserving soil and forestry resources.

The statement is startling when one reflects on its implications. It would come as a shock if this were the first time such a statement had ever been made. But it is far from being the first time. It is generally known that much of our soil is deteriorating, that vast areas are being eroded and washed away, and that our soil conservation is lagging.

The trouble is that, while this is generally known, most people give no thought to the meaning of this condition. They are for conservation, all right, if you question them about it; but that ends the matter so far as most people are concerned. Yet approval of conservation means nothing without actual practice of conservation.

Too widely, even among our farmers, who are the ones most directly concerned, a passive attitude toward the problem of conservation prevails. They just do not put into practice the conservation methods they know are vitally needed to preserve the soil. Probably in many cases this is because farmers are not sufficiently informed about conservation methods. But any farmer can learn about conservation practices if he will take the trouble to make inquiries. Farm extension services, agricultural colleges and other agencies would be glad to give any farmer information about soil conservation.

Secretary Wallace says that while we are making substantial progress toward conservation, his department realizes that all that has been done is "only a start in the right direction." The land is still wearing out faster than it is being restored.

Soil erosion alone in this country has ruined a total area as large as three states the size of Alabama. More than 700,000,000 acres more are now in the process of destruction by erosion. The chief of the United States Soil Conservation Service, Dr. H. H. Bennett, in a speech in Alabama a few months ago, said he regarded erosion as our greatest national problem, because if it is not checked, American civilization will decline just as all great civilizations of the past were destroyed when the fertility of their soil was gone.

* * *

The changes announced by the secretary of agriculture will affect the programs of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Security Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Extension Service. Through the programs of these agencies farmers will be urged to give greater attention to conservation. In many cases they will be compelled to do so before they can receive the benefits offered by some of these programs.

In the Farm Security Administration, which extends loans to tenants and sharecroppers for the purchase and rehabilitation of farms, one of the changes is a provision that no loans will be approved when the would-be buyer's farm plan contemplates the growing of only one cash crop. This is intended to promote crop rotation and diversification, particularly in such single-crop areas as the cotton regions of the South.

One-crop farming is a serious cause of soil deterioration. This is particularly true of cotton, incidentally. Where the land is planted year after year to one crop, essential elements in the soil are depleted.

Another great difficulty in the way of more successful soil conservation is the high proportion of farms that are operated by tenants and sharecroppers. The insecurity of tenure under the tenant and sharecropper system generally leads to misuse of the land or failure to protect it properly. When farmers have an interest in the land because of ownership, they are, naturally, more inclined to protect the soil. Secretary Wallace, therefore, has instructed the Farm Security Administration to intensify its efforts to help borrowers to obtain leases on longer and better terms.

Other changes ordered by Mr. Wallace provide for grants to low-income farmers for conservation work and, under the AAA crop control programs, greater subsidies to cooperating farmers who employ desirable conservation practices. Local AAA committees have also been instructed to require farmers to meet stricter soil conservation performance requirements before granting credit for soil-building practices—the basis on which conservation payments are made.

Mr. Wallace has called on the Soil Conservation Service to work more closely with other agricultural agencies in supplying technical guidance and in lending equipment to farmers for conservation work, where possible. He has asked the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Extension Service to place greater emphasis on conservation in their educational and promotional activities.

* * *

Thus Secretary Wallace has instituted a general heightening of conservation efforts by federal agencies. This intensification ought to accomplish a decided increase in the scope and effectiveness of conservation practices.

If this process of wearing out land faster than we restore it is not reversed, it may not be so very many years before more heroic measures will have to be taken to protect the soil. For the problem is unquestionably a very grave one. What happens to a country or a civilization when the land wears out has been demonstrated too often in the world's history for us to be unmindful of the consequences.

CONDITION OF

. . THE COTTON SITUATION . .

By I. W. DUGGAN

(Director, Southern Division, AAA)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The European war has upset all our calculations. The assumptions and plans we made in peace time need reexamination. We know that the outbreak in Europe will affect every one of us. This country entered the last great war. We have now learned that there is nothing to be gained by a war. But to avoid any entanglements requires the most searching analysis of our situation. We must avoid past mistakes and new ones that are likely to be made, if we are not extremely careful.

In our disturbed world, none of us can forecast with any degree of accuracy what the future may hold. It would be foolish to say that the price of any commodity is going up or is going down regardless of the immediate supply situation. We cannot say what prices by commodities will follow the same course they followed during the World War. Yet, certain facts are known, and, if we understand these facts, they are the best guides we have.

In the event that the present European war should be a short one, a certain set of conditions would be likely to exist. On the other hand, should the war be long-drawn out, quite different conditions and demands would exist. Farmers should make themselves familiar with the present supplies of all the principal agricultural products, together with the outlook for consumption. Then it will be easier to decide what might happen whether the war is short or long.

Effects of Aftermaths

Not only should we think about what to do in war time, but we should consider the effects of the aftermath of the war. The fighting must end some time, for wars do end. There are some very valuable lessons to be drawn from what took place following the World War. Farmers had a brief spree of high prices during the World War, but the hangover is still with us. The aftermath of war may be a more severe shock to the economic system than the war itself. We should carefully plan the course of action that we take. We cannot afford to gamble on building up surpluses, and we cannot gamble on the fact that things will come out right. We must plan carefully and intelligently to make them come out right.

One fact, I think, is outstanding. We are in a much better position to deal with the situation created by war than we were at the outbreak of the World War in 1914. Then it was necessary to start almost from the beginning. The extension service was in its infancy. Farmers had absolutely no experience in national programs for agriculture and national planning for agriculture. This government concentrated on getting farmers to produce more and there was little thought as to what might happen after peace came.

As some of you remember, war emergency funds for expanding extension work were provided and the number of county agents almost trebled from 1914 to 1918. But there are many more county agents today than there were in 1918. The extension personnel has had over 20 years of experience. It has had to meet several agricultural emergencies since the last war. All of us will agree, I think, that it is remarkably efficient and ready for whatever comes.

AAA Experience

In addition, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has had almost seven years of experience in meeting emergencies and carrying out farm programs. There are experienced farmers, both white and colored, in every county and in every community, who know how to cooperate to make our farm programs successful.

Farmers today are much better informed than they were in 1914. They have literally been to school in the past six years, and the things they have learned should be of great value to them now. The producers, or many of them at least, know fundamental facts about this agricultural situation. They know about supply and demand, and they are in a position to measure the future by what has happened in the past.

And when I say farmers, I mean all of those who till the soil for their daily bread, regardless of color or creed. I think most of you here know enough about the administration of the Farm Program to realize that it is an outstanding example of the type of economic democracy we strive for in this country. It is a program for farmers, regardless of whether they are white or colored; regardless of whether they are tenants, sharecroppers, or landlords. It is a program of equal opportunity to share in a government honest effort to add to farm income, to conserve and rebuild soil, and to help farm families feed themselves and their livestock. Each man benefits in the same degree that he cooperates. Each man gets exactly what he earns.

I am proud of the understanding that farmers have acquired of the farm programse. It places them, as well as Triple-A workers, in a position to help make intelligent decisions on agricultural policy. It aids greatly in the administration of the program.

Shifts In Market

That understanding of the farm situation has been of vast assistance in presenting to cotton farmers a realistic picture of the meaning of the events in Europe. The war in Europe has been raging less than six weeks but already it has brought about profound changes. Among these changes are rapid shifts in the commodity markets. Prices of cotton, wheat, and other commodities have gone up suddenly. The price of flue-cured tobacco went down at almost an equal rate after British interests stopped their purchases. Let us look at the picture presented by some of these commodities. Many people remember the price advance in 1917 and 1918, during the last war. Perhaps they have forgotten the events of 1914 and 1915.

Most of you have not forgotten, however, that cotton prices fell drastically after war began in 1914. Prices did not recover until production was reduced. The price of cotton averaged only 12.5 cents a pound in 1913, but in 1914 it fell and averaged 7.4 cents a pound. The buy-a-bale movement helped a little but not much. In 1915, cotton prices began an upward march. They averaged 11.2 cents a pound in 1915, 17.3 cents a pound in 1916, 27.1 cents in 1917, 28.8 cents in 1918, and the fantastic figure of 35.2 cents in 1919. That was the year when almost every cotton grower had at least one or two silk shirts with wide and loud stripes and when before us there stretched the pleasing spectactle of unending high cotton prices. The only flaw in that picture was that at some time or other one had to die. What happened? The bottom fell out of the cotton market in 1920 and the world has never been right since.

Cotton Prices Up

Contrary to the opinion of some persons, cotton prices went up instead of down with the new European war. What happened to cause this ascent? Perhaps the memory of high cotton prices in 1917, '18, and '19 had something to do with it. But rather than try to answer that question, let us look at our cotton situation. From it, perhaps, you can draw your own conclusions as to the prospects for the maintenance of future price increases.

The world supply of cotton for the 1939-40 season, the season which began August 1, will be about 50 million bales of cotton, or about one-half a million bales below the largest supply on record. The United States has contributed about 26 million bales of this supply. This country's cotton supply divides itself into a carryover on August 1 of a little more than 14 million bales—a record high incidentally—and a crop of approximately 12 million bales. And approximately 11 million bales of our cotton is owned outright by the Government or is held under Federal loan.

Exports May Decrease

Has the war increased the prospects for more consumption of American cotton? From the immediate standpoint, the prospects for a sizeable increase are not particularly bright. Domestic consumption of cotton for last season was 6 860,000 bales. It probably will be more this season and may equal or exceed 8 million bales. Most of our cotton handlers and Department experts seem to feel that the outbreak of the war has decreased rather than increased the prospects for additional exports this season. Quite a few of them will be surprised if exports exceed 5 million bales. At present it is impossible to say what they will be.

Let us be optimistic, however, and assume that the consumption and exports of American cotton in this season is 13 million bales. The October crop estimate was approximately 12,000,000 running bales. If that estimate is not changed, we will enter the next cotton season with only 800,000 bales less than our 14-million-bale carryover on August 1. In other words, we will go into the 1940-41 cotton year with more than a normal year's consumption and exports already on hand. Even if our calculations are wrong and the demand exceeds our most optimistic estimates, there will be plenty of cotton on hand in the United States and in the world. And bear in mind that our experience in the last war indicated that any increase in cotton consumption due to war needs is more than offset by the decrease in consumption for ordinary purposes.

Compare 1914 Supply

Let us look for a moment at the situation in 1914 when the war broke out just about the beginning of the cotton marketing season. The total world supply of cotton in the 1914-15 season was less than 31 million bales. The United States crop in 1914 was about 16 million bales but the carryover was only about 3,800,000 bales as compared with 14 million on August 1, 1939. We have a lot more cotton on hand than we had in 1914. Make no mistake about it. War or no war, we still have plenty of cotton.

It is true that world consumption of cotton since 1914-15 has increased. The world used some 20 million bales of cotton in 1914-15. It used 28,465,000 in 1938-39. But the world actually used two million bales less American cotton last year than it did the year the World War broke out. The comparative figures are: 1914-15, 13,249,000 bales; and 1938-'39, 11,265000 bales.

There are other things in this situation which may offset to an extent the bearish factors I have given you. As I indicated, some of the increase in prices now may be in anticipation of the price increases which might follow two or three more of war. Or to state it another way, this buying in anticipation of eventual price increases may prevent the price sag which occurred in 914. Furthermore, our cotton is more accessible to European markets than Indian and Egyptian cotton, for example.

In 1914, a good deal of the price decline traced back to the shock of the loss of the German and other Central European markets. At the present time, our cotton trade with those countries is comparatively negligible. And any attempt to predict the future course of cotton prices must take into account the possibility of a general inflationary price rise which would carry along cotton and other commodities with it.

Continue Adjustment

Yet, with the most cheerful interpretations of the present situation, we cannot hide the fact that we have a supply of cotton that is ample for any demand this year and next year too. Consequently, it is only the part of common sense to continue the adjustment program; to keep our acreage to the level of the past two years and to go ahead with our plans to improve our soil and to grow more food and feed for home use.

Thus far, a loan on cotton for this season has not become mandatory. Just the same, it is a comforting thought to know that the loan is there to be used when it is needed. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that the cotton loans of 1937 and 1938 prevented five-cent cotton. The war has made the safeguards of the present program even more necessary than they were before.

For after the war, whatever its effects, comes the aftermath. As we learned by sad experience, the aftermath of the World War was even more unpleasant from the standpoint of the Cotton Belt as a whole than the war itself.

Of course, there is no way of knowing what the world situation will be once the war is over. If it continues over a lengthy period however, we can surmise that it will leave the world devastated, in debt, and poor. Farmers will need protection against a recurrence of events such as followed the last war and from which we have not yet recovered.

Must Keep Program

If, in anticipation of war-time prof'ts we abandon the p ogram and its protection, we will be out on a stormy sea in a leaky boat. I do not think there is the slightest possibility that we will abandon the program. I think farmers see the situation clearly and know that it is needed now more than ever and that it will be needed more after the conflict in Europe comes to an end.

We simply cannot afford to take a sho t-sighted view of the agricultural s'tuation today. Even if we ke p our heads, we are likely to be in for some pretty hard times sooner or later. Europe cannot waste its resources and manpower in war without making the whole world poore . W need to protect our farm income and our own basic resources. The soil-building and so'l conservat'on features of the 'arm program are as important, if not more important, today than they have ever been. The shell holes in this country from the last wa are the 'ands which were p'anted to crops but which were not suited to 'ntensive cultivation.

These ar the areas which have been abandoned or which are washing or blowing away and which have b en adding to our surplus problems since the World War. These are the p oblem areas of ag'iculture.

In the interest of democracy we must continue to improve the soil-building features of the farm program as w'll as its other phases. In every possible way we should strengthen and improve our fa m programs, we are going to need them for years to come.

Banker-Doctor Says South's Agrarian Ills Are Hers Alone

BY BEM PRICE

President Roosevelt to the contrary, Dr. J. S. Wittmeier, president of the First National Bank o Oneonta, declared recently: "The South is not the economic problem of the nation, it is the South's and we can—and will—solve it."

No idle boast is that statement Since 1926 Dr. Wittmeier has been doing his bit for the region in Blount County as a banker and former chairman of the agricultural committee of the Alabama Bankers Association.

Basis of Dr. Wittmeier's solution is the belief that "farmers dwelling in comfort will be the only stabilizing influence in the future."

Diagnosis May Prove True

Since Southern agriculture has long been ill, preventive medicine will no longer cure the patient. Fully aware of the patient's condition, Dr. Wittmeier, a physician as well as bank president, began searching for the cause in hope of finding a remedy—and he apparently has.

Responsibility for the condition of Southern agriculture, says Dr. Wittmeier, is three-fold:

"Our brightest boys and girls are leaving the farm and going to the industrial centers—our best brains are going North.

"From the time a child enters school it is drummed into him that education is based on dollar value . . . . Such instructions create a white collar class of boys and girls who do not want to work with their hands.

"We have a shortage of buildings and teachers in the South.

Contented Farm Youth Urged

On a basis of these findings, Dr. Wittmeier reached the conclusion: "If we can keep our boys and girls on the farm, industry will come South for labor as well as raw materials. It does not take much of a fence to keep a cow in a good pasture, but our boys and girls on the farm must have all the necessities and some of the comforts to keep them satisfied."

Therefore, Dr. Wittmeier recommends "a sound, dependable and prosperous agriculture."

To help build that sound agricultural system, the banker and farmer have to cooperate, says Dr. Wittmeier. On bank credit, he says, "a farmer who consistently raises everything he needs at home is a good financial risk. He has demonstrated his farming intelligence, thrift, conservation and ability to convert raw materials into the finished product with the least number of turnovers."

Any farmer will achieve prosperity if he can and will follow the following program, according to Dr. Wittmeier:

1. Make farming a business.
2. Terrace and drain the land.
3. Enrich the soil by using cover crops.
4. Use better seed.
5. Use better farming tools.
6. Raise better livestock.
7. Improve his home and grounds.
8. Grade everything for the market.
9. Raise his own work stock.

Diversify Crop

"A farmer," says Dr. Wittmeier, "who consistently produces all his corn and hay, meat and lard, milk and butter, chickens and eggs, syrup and potatoes, canned friut and vegetables, is a good risk for any country bank and he will not try to borrow more than he can pay back.

"The farmers in the South have many advantages over other sections and with our cotton crop supplemented with livestock living on every acre of waste and uncultivated land, we can soon have our fields as green in the Winter as in the Summer.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

Urges New Emphasis Of Brief Farm Study

Youth Commission Report Cites Need for Short Courses

Although the number of colleges of agriculture offering short courses has decreased from forty-six to twenty-eight during the last fifteen years, the agricultural short course is rapidly being recognized as an effective means toward educating potential leaders for efficient farming, adequate living and enlightened citizenship, according to E. L. Kirkpatrick, author of "Short Courses in Colleges of Agriculture," a report of the American Youth Commission.

In many situations highly specialized lines of work have been substituted for the general course of several months. This tendency to shift from the broad field of agriculture toward technical or special subjects, including many of the so-called "mechanic arts," appears to be a typical development, Mr. Kirkpatrick believes. Much of the specialized work is offered in the form of conferences or institutes.

Several land grant colleges, in line with a growing need for a type of education designed to meet the increasing social and cultural, as well as vocational, needs of prospective farmers, are conducting short courses with a folk school emphasis. These are patterned after Danish developments, giving fully as much attention to the social sciences and cultural arts as to agriculture and stressing the integration of vocational training with an educational preparation that equips the student to participate and assume leadership in group affairs of the rural community.

"Colleges of agriculture are facing a new opportunity in the possible expansion or perhaps redevelopment of short courses," Mr. Kirkpatrick states. "There is a decided need for systematic instruction in a given subject or group of subjects of shorter duration than a four-year college course and not leading to a degree for young people who are out of school but desirous of further development."

Wealth Seen In Forests Of South

Expected To Support Over 1,800,000 Persons

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—(AP)—The forest service estimated today the South could make its forestry resources support more than 1,800,000 persons.

Forest industries in the South now provide work for about 225,000 persons, the service said in an annual report.

"Next only to cotton, the South's forests have been her greatest single source of wealth," the report said. "For more than 200 years they have supported industries producing such commodities as lumber, naval stores, poles and piling."

The forest service estimated that 14 Southeastern States had 125,000,000 acres of forest land, much of which has been "but, slashed and mined."

"Some 9,500,000 acres are now so nearly devastated that they must be planted in order quickly to grow worthwhile forests again. About 97,000,000 acres bear second growth, but only half of it has trees of saw-timber size and most of it is seriously understocked. Of 18,000,000 acres now in old growth, 11,000,000 acres have been cuddel."

"Nature has been so kind," the service said, "that total annual forest increment—growth less natural mortality—of all species and sizes—computed at 48,000,000 cords—exceeds the annual commodity drain by some 7,000,000 cords

GENERAL

Can We Solve The Farm Problem?

Labor has so often said that this country cannot achieve enduring prosperity until agriculture is prosperous—until we can devise some nethod by which the farmer may secure cost of production, plus a profit—that it is unnecessary to repeat the sentiment. The entire American labor movement has always taken that position. Unfortunately, many farmers don't know that, but the statement is true.

No unprejudiced observer can doubt that President Roosevelt and Secretary of Agriculture Wallace have made a sincere effort to attain the goal we have suggested. In fact, this administration has done more for the farmer than any other administration in the history of this country.

It has been forced to do a good deal of experimenting but, in the main, has acted with commendable courage and intelligence. It has encountered a lot of difficulties—devastating droughts, bumper crops and, in some instances, lack of cooperation from those it sought to aid.

As evidence of its good faith right now, with the prices of farm products sagging, the administration is pouring out hundreds of millions to sustain the farmers' buying power. This is all to the good, as far as it goes, but it must be apparent we have not achieved a permanent remedy for the ills of agriculture.

The chief difficulty is to find a way to handle crops like cotton, wheat and corn. We produce ordinarily more of these staples than we can consume under existing conditions.

The obvious remedy, of course, is to increase the purchasing power of the industrial workers to the point where they can consume what our farms produce. Pending that good day, however, Labor feels the administration has a right to ask the farmers to assist in curtailing the crops which cause most of the trouble.

Why wouldn't it be a good idea for the administration to ask the next Congress to authorize it to take these definite steps?

1. Buy directly from the farmer the wheat, corn and cotton needed for the domestic market at an adequate price, giving each farmer his proportion, based on what he has been producing in recent years.

2. Close the grain and cotton exchanges and forbid all speculation in the necessaries of life.

3. Require millers, cotton manufacturers and other processors to buy what they need from the government.

4. Permit the farmer who desires to produce more than his quota to sell his surplus in any market outside the United States. The government might even assist in forming cooperatives to facilitate such marketing, but it should not assume responsibility for the price received.

Labor realizes there is nothing startling new about this suggestion. Every feature has been debated by those interested in the farm problem, and some are now part of the administration's program.

What Labor has in mind is that the farmer has a right to demand from the rest of us a fair reward for producing those things which we must have if we are to live. He should get that price and no chiseling middle-man or speculator should be permitted to deprive him of any part of it. The only way to assure that result is for Uncle Sam to do the entire job, from start to finish.

But if the farmer insists on raising more than is needed in this country, he should be willing to take his chances in the world market.

From "Labzor, Washington, D. C.

FARM TENANCY CRISIS STUDIED BY CONGRESS

Two Billion Dollar Plan Is Proposed As Solution

WASHINGTON, July 28—Effective steps to raise living standards for millions of Race and white small farmers and to drive for a progressive solution of the farm tenancy crisis have at last been promised in the New Deal's $2,800,000,000 self-liquidating investment program now before Congress.

Long neglected in the Roosevelt administration's moves for agricultural aid, the problems of the small farmer have secured a front-rank position in the recovery plans drafted by New Dealers.

Of the total spending authorization sought by President Roosevelt and his close advisers, $600,000,000 would be voted to farm tenancy loans and for rehabilitation loans. Another $500,000,000 would be spent on rural electrification projects to carry electric power facilities to millions of small farms now lacking in this primary necessity for decent living conditions.

Under present plans, from one-half to two-thirds of the $600,000,000 involved in the total program would be spent for the purchase of tenant farms from their present landlords. The farms would then be resold to the present tenants on a 40-year installment payment basis with the low interest rates made possible by use of the government's credit. The policy would be to fix the total annual purchase cost at considerably less than the rent now paid by the tenant farmers.

Coincident with this program of placing exploited tenant farmers in full ownership of the land they work, low-cost loans also would be extended for rehabilitation and repair of the farms.

"GOING TO TOWN" WITH SWEET POTATOES---AND PRAIRIE FARMS' SHELVES ARE FULL





Charles Brown's Willis and Charlie Jr., at Prairie Farms - - - - can take care of both these "crops!"

FARMER BOYD HAS VISITORS



Jos. H. B. Evans of Farm Security Washington office, and Councill Trenholm, president, Ala. State Teachers' College, with C. D. Camp, project mgr., visit Unit 12.

KNEE DEEP IN YOUNG CORN



Samuel Boyd (holding potato vine), C. D. Camp, project mgr., Councill Trenholm, Ala. educator, and Jos. H. B. Evans of FSA headquarters, look over Boyd's crops.

Southern Governors Seek A Balanced Economy

Members of the Southern Governors Conference, meeting in Atlanta, have begun planning a 10-year program for "balanced prosperity" in the South. Five governors of Southern States, in Atlanta to attend the premiere of the motion picture production of *Gone With the Wind*, combined business with pleasure by meeting to outline the conference's program for a better balanced economy in the South.

They appointed a three-man committee to draft the 10-year program, and laid down the following points as the basic objectives:

1. Balance money crop with food, feed and fertility crops.
2. Balance all crops with livestock.
3. Balance production progress with marketing progress.
4. Balance farms with factories.
5. Balance increasing wealth with increasing home ownership.
6. Balance economic gains with gains of human welfare, cultural and spiritual values.

The committee appointed to draft the program is composed of Dr. Frank Graham, president of the University of North Carolina; Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of *The Progressive Farmer*, and Dr. Paul Chapman, dean of the college of agriculture of the University of Georgia. This is an excellent committee. Its report to the conference will naturally be awaited with great interest.

The major emphasis in the outline of objectives, it will be noted, is on the balancing of agriculture and industry. That, of course, is as it should be. The South has heretofore been predominantly an agricultural section, but it has been making rapid strides in industrial development in recent years. If we are to advance economically in the South, if we are to raise our per capita income and our per capita wealth to the level of the rest of the nation, we must lessen our dependence on agriculture and increase our industrial production.

This does not mean, however, that we merely have to build up our industries. It means also that we must develop our agriculture on a sounder basis. For, however great our industrial development becomes, the South will remain largely an agricultural section, and a large proportion of our population must continue to look to the farms for their livelihood.

More efficient farming, diversification of crops, lessened dependence on cotton and the development of additional major agricultural activities, such as dairying and livestock-raising, are among the urgent needs.

Agriculture presents the South's greatest economic problem. The farm problem is serious enough in the nation as a whole, but it is particularly acute in the South. The relatively low economic status of Southern farmers is chiefly responsible for the fact that the per capita income in the South is lower than anywhere else in the United States. How much the South lags in this respect is shown by the fact that the per capita income in the richest Southern state is lower than the per capita income in the poorest state outside the South. That is a fact which the South should never forget as long as it remains a fact. Until the per capita income in the South reaches a level comparable to that of the rest of the nation, the South must spare no effort to improve its economic status.

It is gratifying that the Southern Governors Conference, along with its aims for improved agricultural practices and a better balance between industry and agriculture also sets up the objective of increased ownership of homes. This is important both in urban and in rural sections. It is particularly important, however, in the rural areas because the problem of farm tenancy is worse in the South than anywhere else. We cannot hope to build a sound agriculture unless we have a larger proportion of farmers owning their own farms.

In considering its farm problem, the South needs to be particularly watchful during the coming year, because it is a national election year. National agricultural policies will continue to play a highly important part in the solution of Southern farm problems, and the South must be alert to the dangers of any change in national agricultural policies which might be hurtful to this section.

It is being said increasingly that farm policies will be the chief issue in the presidential campaign. If that proves to be true, the South will need to be vigilant in behalf of its own interests. If a Republican administration should come into power, there are good reasons for expecting that changes harmful to the South would be attempted in agricultural policies. The South, naturally, will hope for Democratic success in the election. Even if the Republicans should come into power, it would still be possible to prevent changes in agricultural policies from being hurtful to the South. We need to be on guard to see that the South's agricultural interests are protected, however the election goes.

AGRICULTURE-CONDITION OF 1939

GENERAL

Wallace Hits Press Bias Against Farmer, Labor

Urges Equal Voice with Business at Press Ass'n. Dinner; Calls Attention to Unfair New Deal Policy; Defends Ickes Criticism

WASHINGTON, June 19 (UP).—Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace tonight asserted that while the American newspaper is the best and freest in the world it must give agriculture and labor an equal voice with business in the establishment of news and editorial policies fair to all.

Speaking before an Alabama Press Association dinner here, he said one "justified" criticism of the newspapers since the advent of the New Deal is that "their discussions of fundamentals has not been broad enough or deep enough."

"There are many exceptions to this rule," he said. "But too many newspapers have dealt with the programs attempted by this administration without regard to the economic background which made these programs absolutely necessary."

Wallace suggested that in order to protect themselves against "careless of unscrupulous journalism," newspaper publishers and editorial workers might establish a "board or agency of their own to pass judgments on the accuracy or ethical handling of news accounts or editorial accounts."

"Such a board or agency would not need to have and probably should not have the sweeping power now exercised by the 'czar of the movies' or the 'czar of baseball,'" he said.

Wallace declared that "part of the service that can be performed by a free press in a democracy is to encourage those policies which give equal rights and equal advantages to the various groups and at the same time aid the welfare of all groups."

At the same time Wallace defended the rights of public officials to criticize the press—"just as newspapers have the right to criticize public officials.' Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes recently delivered a series of addresses criticizing certain sections of American newspaperdom.



HENRY A. WALLACE

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
June 9, 1939

Tenant Farmer Better Off Here Than In India

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., June 8.—"The condition of agricultural laborers in many foreign countries and particularly in India is far worse than the condition of tenants and sharecroppers on Southern cotton farms," said P. K. Norris senior marketing specialist in cotton of the foreign marketing service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who is here this week to address negro extension agents attending the special Summer course.

Because of its monetary policy and the increasing production of cotton similar in staple to American brand, Mr. Norris regards Brazil as the most serious competitor for the American product.

Having recently returned from China, Mr. Norris has during the past 10 years made and published surveys of cotton production in Brazil, India, China, Japan, Turkey, Egypt, Burma, Ugandi and Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

He has been assisting C. F. Clark, agricultural economist of the AAA, who is conducting the [illegible] in agricultural economics.

Says Race Has Fared Well Under His Administration

Washington, June 14. (ANP)—Fully cognizant of the problems confronting the Negro in America today, Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, devoted two hours to discussing these problems in an interview with a representative of the Associated Negro Press.

In discussing the plight of the Negro in the South where many whites are employed as farm and home demonstrators, Mr. Wallace deplored the fact that the majority of the jobs held were due to the fact that local groups controlled the appointments. But in the executive positions which were in his power, Mr. Wallace pointed out that Negroes held some of the most important jobs, and some of the best paying jobs. Especially is this true in the Farm Security administration. Several persons were called by names and high praise given their work.

"I am enormously concerned," said Mr. Wallace, "with conditions in the Southeast where white and colored sharecroppers live. There is not enough land there for everybody, but the FSA, the triple-A and the extension service between them have been able to do a great deal in encouraging them to raise more garden foods and to feel confident in doing this.

"Speaking from an economic viewpoint, civic rights and understanding will take care of themselves when the economic situation is taken care of.

"Down there in Mississippi, there is a little school, Piney Woods, founded and operated by a man from Iowa, Lawrence Jones. He calls it an 'humble Tuskegee.' Every summer, Jones makes trips back North, picks up some money, goes back to Piney Woods and builds another small building and tries to carry on. I am interested in this work, and have listened to his story. In fact, when my father died (he, too, was secretary of agriculture, and died in office), a group of colored singers from this school sang at the funeral. In fact, they are scheduled to sing here in the department auditorium in a few days."

Mr. Wallace touched upon a federal anti-lynching bill, stating that he was "in favor of the most effective way to stop lynching;" a slum clearance as a federal program, and civil service.

A survey made recently shows that the number of appointees in the bureau numbers 52,000 of which 1,123 are Negroes. When asked about the ratio of Negroes compared with whites, it was said that no thought had ever been given such a thing, and employes were not regarded on the basis of color in this particular administration.

The Guest Writer

Cotton Problem Solved

(From The Oklahoma City Times)

While Washington bureaus have worried themselves sick over how to solve the problem of low-priced cotton and failure of export markets, Tom Mitchell of New Albany, Miss., has quietly worked out his own salvation, according to Country Home.

Adopting the suggestions of the Plant To Prosper Campaign initiated by The Memphis Commercial Appeal in 1934, Mitchell started in.

For 30 years he had moved helplessly from farm to farm, with nothing to show for his wanderings except a rattletrap wagon, a few shabby household goods and seven undernourished children.

Today Tom Mitchell has a new car. Healthy children play about a neat, attractive home. His net profit in 1938 was $4268. And his story is typical of so many farmers that 42,000 families in the South last year produced more than $20,000,000 worth of new crops as a result of the program.

Prizes were offered to farmers who did the best job of carrying out the program, which is that of diversification, terracing, raising crops that provide food for the family. The fine results of last year's drive cost only $50,000 of private funds—less than the New Deal spends upon its floundering campaign in a few minutes.

Sharecroppers and impoverished farmers all over the South have new hope. It really is possible to make a good living on the farm, without Government assistance. In fact, that seems to be by far the best way.

Southern Farmers Expect Needed Aid From Four Billion Dollar Loan Program

By Robert F. Hall

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, July 1.—The fact that President Roosevelt's four billion dollar recovery program, announced last week, includes five hundred million dollars for expansion of farm security loans, is as yet not fully known to the farmers. Undoubtedly, however, reaction among small and middle farmers will be favorable. Figures have not yet been publicized here as to the exact proportion which will go into aiding tenants to purchase farms, but it is a safe assumption that [illegible] will be many times [illegible] appropriated under the Bankhead Jones Tenancy Act.

In fact, the President's announcement apparently reflects the determination of the administration finally to deal seriously with the South's number one problem, farm tenancy.

Despite obvious attempts by local officials in the South to sabotage the working of the Bankhead Jones Act during the past two years, the results are such as to show this approach to be practical and realistic. The main trouble has been that the amount available for loans has been small and pressure from district offices has been to keep down to a minimum the number of tenants getting help from the Farm Security Administration. Another shortcoming of the program has been that credit requirements for applicants have been higher than the poorest tenants who need help the most, could meet.

AID TO FARM OWNERSHIP

Nevertheless, it is estimated that on June 30, when the fiscal year ended, seven thousand tenants and sharecroppers were well on the way to owning their farms, as result of the program. In a great majority of cases, the annual payments, plus taxes and insurance, amount to less than the tenant formerly paid in rent for the same farm.

The program has proven successful as self-liquidating, too, and the FSA reports that farmers who borrowed to buy farms are repaying loans far in advance of the date due. In the Southern States, the average borrower increased his net worth sixty-six per cent. In other words, before his acceptance on the program, the Southern farmer had a net worth of $451. At the end of the 1938 crop year, his net worth was $752, or an increase of $300.

As an indication of how farm tenancy rehabiiltation helps the community, it has been shown that almost 200,000 children of school age in these low-income families have been enabled to attend school as a result of the program. In Alabama the school attendance increased by 15,355 pupils coming from these families. These children previously had been unable to attend school.

In several black belt counties, the FSA has instituted medical cooperatives among participating farmers, notably in Coffee County, filling a sorely felt need in these rural areas for low-priced health facilities. However, bureaucratic local officials in Elmore County have frequently attempted to force the farmers into the cooperative, which is resented.

The FSA program, by selling high grade fertilizer at low cost to tenants, has exposed the enormous rate of profit as well as the graft extorted by local landlords in the handling of fertilizer through their commissaries. Farmers get fertilizer from the government at $20 a ton while landlords have been charging $24 to $30.

Meanwhile, Alabama farmers are seriously concerned with the damage to crops resulting from thirty-three days of rain. Damage to cotton in some counties is estimated at fifty per cent and to corn at thirty per cent. Excessive rain has encouraged the growth of weeds and grass and ground has been too wet for farmers to get in and hoe out or plow out weeds. Fertilizer has been washed out by excessive rains and boll weevil.

Import Tax Proposed As Aid To South

—The economic plight of the cotton farmer, land-owner, sharecropper and laborer—could be relieved by an increase in the processing tax on coconut oil produced in the Philippine Islands, according to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene P. Booze, prominent local farmers.

Coconut oil and its by-products have decreased the market for cottonseed oil and its by-products, agricultural statistics show, and as a consequence have decreased the income of cotton planters. An increase in the processing tax on coconut oil would protect the Amrican market from the dumping of Philippine oils.

As there are nearly 5,000,000 Race farmers in the United States, most of whom are engaged in cotton production, keen interest is being shown in an amendment proposed by Senator Tom Connally, Democrat, of Texas, to increase the processing tax on certain oils from 3 to 5 cents a pound.

In this regard they issued a statement urging persons interested particularly in the welfare of the Race farmer to write President Roosevelt and Senator Pat Harrison, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, requesting favorable action on the Connally amendment.

Progress In The Campaign To Use More Cotton

Despite all efforts at curtailment, the cotton crop this year will again be in excess of our needs, both domestic and export. The nation is faced with an addition to its cotton surplus, already about 13,000,000 bales. There is just about enough cotton on hand in this country now to meet a year's demands for domestic consumption and export purposes.

This situation cannot go on indefinitely; that is a recognized fact. Only three lines of improvement are possible. The farmer must be induced, by some means, to grow less cotton; exports must be increased; or new and expanded uses found in domestic consumption.

The first plan is slow, and, under present methods, expensive. Increasing cotton exports in a world that is showing less and less dependence upon American cotton is difficult. The amount of cotton exported is at its lowest point in 60 years. Many believe our larger foreign markets are gone forever.

The most hopeful line of attack is that of expanding domestic consumption. For some time there has been a concerted effort in that behalf in the United States. It is the foremost endeavor of the recently organized National Cotton Council of America, with Oscar Johnston as president.

Domestic consumption of cotton has been improving over that of the depression years. During the fiscal year ending July 31, the domestic consumption of cotton (with July figures estimated) was 6,916,852 bales. That is well above the average consumption for the last 10 years, which was 5,907,000 bales. The best year in that period was 1936-37, when domestic consumption was 7,798,000 bales. The year just closing was the second best year, and if domestic consumption continues to pick up, there will be reason for hoping that the huge surplus now in the nation's warehouses will soon be sharply reduced.

Two recent announcements by large merchandising concerns are a healthy stimulus to the use-more-cotton campaign. The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company has said that in the future it will use cotton bags instead of jute bags for the outer wrapping in shipping its flour. This one change will require 2,000 more bales of cotton annually.

Now comes Sears, Roebuck & Co., which, in a letter to stockholders accompanying dividend checks, urges more use of cotton products and announces a policy of stimulating the sale of cotton goods. The letter, after pointing out the problem of the huge cotton carry-over, says: "We have geared up our entire distributive facilities to help reduce this surplus." The methods employed by the store system include lowered prices on cotton goods and advertising campaigns stressing the advantages of cotton goods.

Slowly the campaign to use more cotton is spreading. It is being recognized, as these two systems recognized it, as a national instead of a local campaign. We have, of course, a long way yet to go.

More Patchwork For Cotton

If agriculture in this country continues to receive parity payments, the money obviously must come from somewhere and the budget-paring drive scheduled for the forthcoming session of Congress is bound to squeeze.

Agriculture is entitled to parity payments. Production materials are kept at high levels because of tariffs and other governmental restrictions. Furthermore, to withdraw parity payments would upset farm purchasing power and with it our national economy.

So Secretary Wallace advocates processing or consumer taxes to raise the money for farm payments, offering his proposal under the label of a "certificate plan."

Cotton is making a desperate fight against competing fabrics—rayon, paper, rubber and synthetic products of the chemist's vials. A processing tax on cotton without a compensating tax on competing materials is bound to close outlets which are now being kept open only by intensive work on the part of the National Cotton Council, the Cotton Research Foundation, Cotton Textile Institute and similar groups.

It is high time the Government abandoned its patchwork legislation and worked out a program that contemplated the Nation's economy as a whole. Since the farm areas make up a tremendous part of that national economy why not be realistic about it and admit that if governmental restrictions for benefit of industry force higher living and production costs on the farmers, then parity payments are in order . . .

NOT, however, through consumer taxes that will bring competitors.

Problem of Negro Marginal Farmer Still to Be Solved

Too Often Neglected In Government and Individual Programs For Alleviating Conditions, and Improving Rural Life

By F. A. WILLIAMS

Agricultural Economist, Southern University, Scotlandville, La.

IN RECENT years, the question of marginal farmers has been of wide spread significance among rural as well as urban leaders, although considerable attention has been given towards improving rural life through attempts to raise the economic levels of farmers by both individual and government aids. Too often the Negro marginal farmers' situation has been dismissed with the answer, that Negroes on farms will not starve.

Thus, throughout the entire Southland, thousands of Negro marginal farmers are producers of agricultural riches but their sharing in the profits derived from raw and consumable agricultural products is negligible. It is pathetic that this large group of American producers of crops, livestock, and other farm products must be stricken with poverty. Even though these individuals are neither mentally nor physically handicapped. Still this portion of our farm population secures a gross income of $500 per farm, which includes the value of home grown and consumed products.

THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES

This low income group mentioned above is existing primarily because of the following conditions: (1) low farm wages: (2) various systems of tenacy; (3) poor and submarginal lands for agricultural purposes; (4) heavy farm migration; (5) farm relief families; (6) super-imposed low standards of living; (7) instability of crop yields; (8) instability of crop acreage; (9) instability of farm prices; (10) lack of formal education; (11) improper usage of land; (12) small volumes of farm holdings; (13) heavy debts due to high mortgage values; (14) too high as well as too low interest rates; (15) improper farm and home management practices; (16) lack of modern farm machinery; (17) and, farm youth unable to become established in farming.

These marginal farmers must purchase supplies and equipment necessary for carrying on productive enterprises in the farm business as well as purchase clothing, food, and sheltering necessities so vital for mere subsistence not to mention the funds which are to be used for other living purposes. Chief among them, education, health, recreation, religion, insurance and personal gifts.

This means that a large proportion of the Negro population in the south's rural areas must be forced into a "sub-marginal" grouping due to pitiful low standards of living as results of low farm income. Thereby, resulting into mentally and physically handicapped individuals on account of being forced into the use of poor health habits and lax moral codes. This already grave plight is even aggravated more due to the fact that Negro marginal farmers usually have large families.

More than 40 per cent of all rural youth in the southern states are Negroes. A study in North Carolina reveals that the average number of persons per family was a little over eight, while in Arkansas, Mississippi, and South Carolina this figure is even much higher, which indicates that even with various agricultural reforms that often bring new hope to rural life will be gradual in their effects, instead of rapid.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The graveness of the situation involved in the plight of our marginal farmers is reflected in the socio-economic problems of this particular class in our Negro farm population. These problems are seen in various manners, outstanding among them are: (1) poor rural communication facilities; (2) lack of interest in rural life; (3) poor educational facilities; (4) inefficient teaching corps; (5) lack of adjusted farming systems; (6) lack of community and home library facilities; (7) poor methods of sanitation; (8) lack of orderly marketing practices; (9) inefficiently organized community life; (10) little support to local government; (11) an increased number of disadvantaged farmers (12) lack of constructive church services; 13) a high percentage of illiteracy; (14) lack of wholesome recreation; (15) dependent upon credit for the farm and home unit; (16) lack of consumer education; (17) little, if any vocational guidance; (18) lack of cooperation; (19) no local program for handicapped youth and adults; (20) and, inability to pay taxes and other obligations.

Thus, it may be obviously detected that there are many reasons for our heavy number of Negro marginal farmers which is not traceable directly to our Negro users of land, but rather to such forces as: racial prejudice, unfavorable farm legislation, local administrative policies, well established traditions, and non-service-able indoctrinations.

Hence, it would prove a difficult task for one to outline a program or processes which would permanently lift our unfortunate marginal farmers to a level above his present non-livable plight. However, those of us who are largely responsible for directing the life-like activities as well as existing life activities among Negro farmers, must through cooperative effort, develop a scheme of activity that will not slel our present and future soilbuilders for our own selfish motives, but rather we must study the situation and offer as many remedial steps as possible.

In a recent study of Negro families in North Caronila, the writer made an attempt to outline a program that was truly no panacea for existing farm practices but which would bring about a partial recovery within an underprivileged group of farmers due to their marginal farm status. The steps suggested were:

1. The production of more soil improving crops such as legumes is necessary to maintain and improve the fertility of the soil as a means of increasing the potential cash income.

2. The using of land for its best purpose would tend to increase the cash income of farmers and in removing submarginal or high cost lands from farm use. A state zoning law or a county zoning ordinance would aid in obtaining this end.

3. The participation in the present Agricultural Adjustment program of soil conservation will serve to improve soil fertility.

4. If owners and tenants would engage in the production of more horticultural products, especially small fruits, the risks involved in the present two-crop system of farming would be reduced.

5. Many farmers should increase the number of dairy cows per farm as a means of providing an adequate supply of dairy products for the family and some might secure an additional source of cash income from the sale of dairy products.

MIGHT MAKE INVESTMENTS

6. Farmers whose records indicate apparent savings might make investments in farm land, bonds, life-insurance, and other profitable investments as a means of securing greater economic security.

7. The mixing of fertilizers by groups of farmers will aid in reducing expenditures for commercial fertilizers.

8. Farmers should be encouraged to organize their own cooperative associations to buy supplies for the farm and the home, and to participate in the selling of tobacco and cotton, cooperatively. A thorough educational program may be necessary to show the advantages and limitations of cooperatives and to explain the failure of a local Negro marketing association some ten or more years ago.

9. The production and marketing of high quality fram products should be encouraged in order to secure premium process.

10. Those farmers who have failed to keep farm and household records should establish a system of farm record keeping as a means of determining more accurately the returns from the farm business.

11. The system of tenacy needs some modifications on many farms which will result in maintaining the fertility of the soil and in keeping the tenants on the farm for a longer period.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

12. The continued and further participation of the farm families in the agricultural education programs will result in a steady improvement of the economic position of the farm people.

13. An expansion of the educational work in home economics and consumer education will improve the dietary habits, the standards of living.

It is my belief that the abovementioned program for improving farm income in North Carolina is more or less applicable to most rural areas throughout the southern states. The condition of miserably low income does not exist in every portion of the United States, for instance, in central Michigan, the average cash income per farm is nine times greater than either Negro or white marginal farmer in the south, and even five times larger than the average cash income for all farmers in the southern portion of the nation.

These farmers contribute their wide margin of profits to such success factors as: "(1) maintenance of soil fertility; (2) cropping programs including both cash and consuming crops; (3) use of approved cropping practices as a means of improving both quality and quanitty; (4) a well balanced livestock program in order to make full usage of farm production; (5) use only productive livestock; (6) wise use of records in order to understand annual farm business; (7) and, use of effective marketing."

OTHER MEANS OF SOLVING PROBLEMS

Various existing agencies for the betterment of Negro rural life may be made for more functional among low income farming groups.

Some agencies which are already performing outstanding activities among Negroes in rural areas in the south are such organizations and institutions as: 4-H Clubs, New Farmers of America, agricultural research groups, youth councils, National Youth Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, Work Progress Administration, U. S. Employment Service, short course, Negro Teachers' Associations, interracial commissions, rural clubs, Negro folk schools, and various other local and national organizations.

These agencies have accomplished much in lifting the Negro farmer from his grave plight but such agencies must coordinate their programs in conserving Negro humanity which is as important as conserving natural resources. However, in conserving natural resources we are in a large measure saving human life.

Therefore, those agencies concerned with Negro life in rural areas must centralize or federate their services in order to promote a definite or well established program that will improve to socio-economic status of the Negro marginal farmer.

WOULD SECURE IMPROVEMENTS

Such a state or national drive would aid tremendously in securing for these ill-fated individuals such improvements or reforms as farm-to-market roads, rural telephone and telegraphic services, stable moral codes, recreational activities, better sanitation and health habits, reduction in parent teacher conflicts, an improved farm income, diversification in farming, community libraries, interior and exterior home improvements, purchasing and selling organizations, increased interest in education, improved religious activities, proper utilization of credit for farm and home purposes, an increased interest in community government, and remedial services for rural handicapped individuals.

Negro in Agriculture

By JOHN W. MITCHELL

District Farm Agent, Greensboro, N. C.

882,850 Negro Farm Operators In United States According To 1930 Census

The following is the text of a radio address delivered by John W. Mitchell, district agent in charge of Extension work with Negro farmers in North Carolina.

THE nation, especially American Negroes are deeply indebted to the Columbia Broadcasting System and those who go to make up the "Wings Over Jordan" program. We, citizens of North Carolina, are proud of the Old North State's native son, Rev. Glenn T. Settle. We think he is worthy of any recognition or honor that may be conferred upon him.

I have been requested to discuss in this brief period, the Economic and Social Status of the Negro in Agriculture.

In discussing this subject, too oft-repeated, but nevertheless, basic truths must be kept in mind. One, that agriculture is fundamental in the life of a people or nation. The other, that Negroes, because of their years of identity in rural life have a great opportunity.

The Negroes' opportunity in agriculture is well stated in a recent release from the Farm Security Administration, entitled: The Southern Negro on the Farm. "Farming is both a business and a way of life for half of all Negroes in America."

The census of 1930 shows that there were 882,850 Negro farm operators in the United States. These farm operators were operating farms with land and buildings valued at $1,402, 945,799. On these farms were implements and machinery valued at $60,327,856.

TENANT PROBLEMS

Ninety-five per cent of all Negro farm operators are in the South and seventy-five percent are tenants. Therefore, with the tenant system being one of the most discussed phases of the nation's economic problems, the Negro farmer is brought directly into the spot-light, whenever the tenant situation is discussed.

Because of the publicity received by this preponderant tenant class of Negro farmer, together with an erroneous notion that intelligence is not necessarily a requisite for anyone engaged in farming, it has been observed that there are many people, North and South, who think of Negroes engaged in agriculture as being a down-and-out group, without a ray of hope striking their economic and social life. Yet, there is a progressive minority group of rural Negroes who are pointing the way to a more satisfying rural life.

A traveler who has never been South of Richmond, Virginia, or a southerner who has failed to be observant, would be surely disappointed if he should expect to see all the Negroes in the South living in dilapidated shanties, with cotton growing up to the door steps, or should expect to see the entire Negro farm family out in the field picking cotton surrounded by abject poverty.

There is a large group of Negroes who own tract of land and who operate well-managed farms. These farms often run into hundreds of acres. On these farmsteads are beautiful homes, well furnished, often equipped with many of the modern home conveniences such as electric fixtures, refrigerators, radios, hot and cold water, bath rooms, and in some instances, electric ranges. These farms are inviting, being surrounded with lovely lawns, shrubbery and well planned landscaping.

Out on the farms, in addition to the scientifically balanced cropping system, are to be found pure-bred or improved grade livestock, large flocks of pure-bred chickens, some times numbering over a thousand to the farm. These same farmers raise hogs to the extent that surplus animals can be sold to nearby markets or even shipped to packing plants in order to have another source of cash income. instead of depending solely on the sale of cotton or tobacco.

Scores of these farmers cooperate with Negro Extension agents in North Carolina and other southern states and are putting into practice recommendations made by the United States Department of Agriculture and cooperating agencies for the improvement of agriculture and rural living.

MORE EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS

Further evidences of the substantial living which these Negro farmers are making may be obtained by visiting the pantry of one of these thrifty Negro farm wives. See there, the stored supplies of canned vegetables, fruits, canned beef, sausage, back-bone, and various pork products. These housewives are meeting canning budget requirements according to the need of the size of their families. In these Negro families, where there are from 10 to 17 children, the budget calls for over a thousand cans.

While his wife meets the food conservation requirements, the husband is to be found providing for the family and livestock on the farm by growing the amount of potatoes, fresh vegetables, grain, hay and other products as needed.

An increasing number of Negroes in the South realize that their best opportunities are in agriculture. These people, when given the opportunity, are earnestly at work to better establish themselves in the rural community life.

Farm tours arranged each summer by Negro county and home agents show almost unbelievable improvements, while thousands of Negro farmers attend state or district meetings to secure first-hand information. This shows the Negro farmer is interested in his future status.

It is well to note, also, the attitude of the young Negro as seen in the enrollment of young Negroes in the 4-H Clubs, and the organization of New Farmers of America, both Junior National Farm Organizations.

Such Federal agencies as the Land-Grant colleges, private institutions like Hampton and Tuskegee, the Cooperative Extension Service vocational agriculture, the Farm Security Administration, and the Negroes' own organization, The National Federation of Colored Farmers, that has just closed its tenth annual meeting which was held this year at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, all of these agencies and others are making their contributions to increase the number of this progressive minority group of Negro farmers.

In conclusion, we wish for a broader application of those principles uttered by the great educator and statesman of North Carolina, Governor Charles B. Aycock, who said: "I would have all our people believe in the power to accomplish as much as can be done anywhere on earth by my people. The equal right to every child on earth to have the opportunity to burgeon out all there is within him."

FIRST COTTON IS GROWN BY NAZIS

Germans Predict Move Will Give Nation Own Resources

BY EDWIN SHANKE

BERLIN — (Correspondence of The Associated Press)—The first German-grown cotton was harvested this year as part of the Reich's drive for economic self-sufficiency, a drive which Germans predict will cause revolutionary changes in the world's raw materials situation.

Successful cultivation of cotton on an experimental basis was carried out in the harsh climate of Eastern Germany.

Newspapers regarded it as a step toward developing a cotton plant, accustomed to inclement weather, that would make cultivation possible to give Germany cotton resources of her own.

The search for a cotton plant is one phase of Germany's battle for economic self-sufficiency, a fight spurred by the Allied blockade.

Production Speedup Seen

An authoritative German source predicts the blockade will bring "under force of circumstances, an artificial speeding up of substitute products which because of their initial cost could not . . . be undertaken under normal conditions."

Germans believe the war stimulus to creation of substitutes will have an important effect on raw materials supplies long after the war is over.

As precedents for this belief they cite instances during the Napoleonic and World Wars.

In the early nineteenth century when an English blockade disrupted trade on the continent, Germany first started to produce sugar from beets, instead of cane. When the wars were over, the sugar beet industry was in a position to compete permanently with the cane industry.

During the World War, Germany was forced to seek a substitute for Chilean saltpeter. A synthetic nitrogen salt was developed which retained its importance even after the war.

The same type of research is in progress today.

Since the advent of the Nazi regime special efforts have been made in the self - sufficiency drive for production of artificial wool and fibers, synthetic rubber and gasoline, as well as other products. The great drawback has been high manufacturing costs and the substitutes found it hard to compete with the natural products they were intended to replace.

Rubber Substitute Found

Nevertheless, the majority of German army trucks and other motorized equipment has been

titted with tires of buna, a substitute for rubber. Much army equipment runs on gasoline made from coal.

The leader of the experiment in cotton growing, Dr. Ewert, head of the Prussian Agricultural Research and Experimental Station near Landsberg, showed newspaper men cotton pods about the size of a large walnut.

His success in growing plants five feet high, with a yield of many cotton pods, however, did not lead Ewert to recommend the immediate cultivation of cotton on a wide scale in Germany.

"Our research work has to go on," he said, "with the aim of raising a cotton plant more resistant to our weather."

AGRICULTURE - 1939
CONDITION OF

GENERAL

FARM GROUP MOVES TO DEMAND PARITY

Showdown Between Agriculture and Labor Seen Developing in Next Congress

MORE PRODUCTION URGED

Failure to Raise Income of Agriculture Held Real Cause for High Unemployment

By JOHN M. COLLINS
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Dec. 9—A showdown between labor and the farmer may develop in the coming session of Congress, it was indicated here this week at the twenty-first annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The Farm Bureau, most vocal of the groups of organized farmers and the mainspring behind the present Agricultural Adjustment Act, got "hard boiled" here this week on the question of parity prices for the farmer.

Parity, in the view of the farmer, is the situation where the farmer can buy the goods of industry at a fair exchange value. At present farm prices are 22 per cent below those of industry.

For a year the Farm Bureau has been insisting that labor and industry produce more at less cost. Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, who addressed the Farm Bureau here, has said industry should step up production 30 to 40 per cent.

The Farm Bureau has been attempting to make a deal with labor over the question of parity. But when farm representatives prepared a plank along this line for Secretary Wallace's National Advisory Council, representatives of labor threatened to walk out if the matter was presented. Farm representatives withdrew the proposal.

Under the AAA program, the Roosevelt Administration has been attempting to bring parity to the farmer through what is called parity payments on top of the regular soil conservation benefits. The last Congress appropriated $225,000,000 for such parity payments for the present fiscal year. Yet, according to Secretary Wallace, parity has not been achieved. Corn, due to the loan, is at 70 per cent of parity to those farmers cooperating with the AAA program, while cotton and wheat, with the benefit payments, are at 56 per cent of parity.

Suggestions on Parity

The action of the Farm Bureau on parity contained these significant suggestions: "The fight of organized agriculture for the American farmer has been and is now for equal opportunity and parity positions with the other great groups. It is our conviction that the creation and maintenance of fair economic balance is essential to the attainment of national prosperity.

"A year ago the federation made the uncompromising statement that prosperity could not and would not be restored except through the attainment of a sound, economic balance to permit the free exchange of goods and services between respective population groups on a fair price and income basis.

"With much greater emphasis we reiterate that position. Either there must be a readjustment of industrial and labor policies to bring industrial prices to a level in relation to farm prices which will insure maximum consumption of the products of both agriculture and industry, or agriculture will be forced to demand of Congress appropriations adequate to make the AAA fully effective in bringing farm income to a level which will permit farmers to buy the products of industry in normal volume.

"The parity price concept of agriculture as set forth in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 attests the sincerity of farmers, because in that act they ask only for farm prices high enough to insure a fair exchange of farm products for the products of industry. We reaffirm our uncompromising support of the broad principles set forth in the act of 1938, which is the most comprehensive and effective law ever written by and for farmers. Under the AAA program progress toward parity has been made. but we are still far from our goal, because we have tried to pull a six-horse load with a two-horse team.

"Control of production has not been rigid enough to raise market prices to parity levels, although it has kept them considerably above the levels to which they would have otherwise fallen. At the same time, appropriations for parity payments have been inadequate to bridge the gap between open-market prices and parity.

"We insist that it is time to face this situation squarely. We believe that failure to raise agriculture's income to parity is the major cause for the unemployment which has cost the Federal Government billions in relief appropriations. Furthermore, billions have been spent or pump priming, without solving the fundamental problem. This approach has failed because most of the priming has gone into the wrong pumps.

"We repeat, that if industrial and labor policies are not modified to bring industrial prices into fair relation with farm prices, then agriculture must ask for adequate appropriations or other equally effective means of bringing farm prices and industrial prices into mutual focus at a level which will permit maximum exchange of goods and services by all groups.

"To the extent that Federal appropriations appear to be the only available means of bringing about fair economic balance between farmers and other groups, we authorize the directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation to insist upon adequate appropriations therefor, and, if necessary, to support tax measures as may appear to be most feasible and most effective to assist in raising the required revenue.

Farm Problem Unsolved

"We are deeply conscious of the public demand for substantial reduction in Federal expenditures, and farmers completely agree that the business of government must be put on a sound basis. Nevertheless, we believe that the present excessive cost of meeting emergency needs is the result of failure to solve the farm price problem. In other words, it is costing the government billions because it is not doing the one thing which will solve at once the twin problems of low farm prices and widespread unemployment.

"The unsettled condition of the world makes it increasingly imperative that the United States put its domestic affairs in order without further delay.

"We have temporized with this vital question too long. We must not delay action longer."

The Farm Bureau convention was considered the best this group had had in its twenty-one years.

E. A. O'Neal of Alabama was reelected president and Earl C. Smith of Illinois vice president. What was considered the touchiest subject before the convention, that of the trade agreements program of the Roosevelt Administration, was passed over without a ripple.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
April 7, 1939

WISE ADVICE

For many years, particularly in the period preceding the 1929 crash, the north had been a form of "promised land" to the southern negro, attracting him by lures of high wages and promises of better living conditions.

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The north seeks southern youth and southern labor in industries paying high wages—for the day. Nothing is said of the annual wages which in most cases in depression years will be far less than that to be obtained in the south in steady employment or endeavor.

But the south must do its part in meeting the warning of the negro congressman from Illinois. Warnings like this will never counterbalance the blandishments of labor-seekers until the south has endeavored to meet the threat of this drain on its population. The south cannot hope to succeed in keeping its people unless opportunity is provided for them to obtain farms, to find employment in industry and to find the contentment of which the congressman speaks.

The answer—and this cannot be repeated too often—lies in education. Without higher educational standards the south might as well fold up and move en masse to other sections of the country. Education and the factors which follow as a matter of course furnish the hope of the south.

Warnings are never enough. Brave and intelligent action must follow. It is a challenge, and beyond that, a duty.

Pascagoula, Miss. Star
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FARMS ARE URGED AS HOMES FOR NEGROES

The only negro in the United States Congress, Mitchell of Illinois (Chicago), is reported to have made a speech before students in a negro school at Atlanta, recently, in which he advocated the settling of negroes from the slum districts of the cities on farms in the South, instead of spending vast sums of money in housing projects for negroes in the cities.

He drew a dismal picture of conditions among negroes who have left rural areas for the cities—"lured by promises of high wages during the boom era, and by desperation later on when depression struck," and discouraged migration of his race from the South. He stated that in extensive trips about the country the only really happy negroes he found were those who "through fortunate chance" are able to make a satisfactory living in rural communities.

His statements are an answer to the old Biblical question, "Can any Good Come out of Nazareth?" Many of the best thinkers of the country have long thought the same about negroes congregating in the cities, but we never expected to hear a negro politician advocating that negroes stay in the South. Most of them want the negroes to move to the congested centers of the North, where they have a semblance of social equality that will forever be denied in the South.

FOR THE FARMER

A Column Dedicated to the Farmers of the United States . . . and Their Problems

By H. L. PRICE
Agricultural Editor

The Negro is, primarily, a product of the soil, farming and farm problems are things of vital concern to him. With this thought in mind, The Pittsburgh Courier has secured the able services of H. L. Price to interpret and explain the many new laws and regulations which affect the farmer.

This new feature, we feel will serve to instruct and educate our farmers. Read it, tell your friends about it. If you have any questions to ask, write Mr. Price. He will be glad to answer.—The Editors.

Pittsburgh Courier 4/1/1939

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CONSERVATION OF SOIL

The Kansas City Star (January 8) contains a long editorial on soil erosion control, which says in part: "The encouraging factor in the situation is that we are at last alive to our danger. An interesting publication by the United States Department of Agriculture, entitled 'To Hold This Soil,' by Russell Lord, tells of the work of the Soil Conservation Service toward halting what in the end might be a disastrous loss to this people. Erosion tests, experimental growth of soil-restoring crops, education of farmers and stockmen, development of processes for healing damaged areas, above all the drawing into closer cooperation of the workers of the soil, are included in the service of this bureau. . . The problem is so immense that only a bare beginning has been made on it. Mr. Lord writes: 'Our major conclusion is this: The soil must be governed, and so far as possible, self-governed. We must change our ways of land use, individually; and where that does not work, enforce change, if the peoples of localities concerned see the need and recognize the necessity for meeting it, through democratic decision and action. Surely land is vested with a public interest. But that does not mean that we must abolish private ownership to have land better reated.' Proof of this is contained in the fact that 50,000 farmers, owning 8½ million acres of land, already are working with the Conservation Service, while additional thousands are studying the plan and preparing to put it into operation on their farms."

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Heads of the American Medical Association informed President Roosevelt of their decision to go along with his plan to put adequate medical care within the reach of persons unable to pay for it. A delegation, headed by Dr. Irvin Abell, president of the A. M. A., informed the President of association approval of the main parts of his national health program, estimated to cost $850,000,000 in ten years. Dr. Abell explained, however, that the A. M. A. was strongly opposed to a suggestion for compulsory sickness insurance.—(Washington Post.)

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Back To The Farm

NO ASPECT of American life so clearly demonstrates the danger in glib advice on thinking given as the stand by youth in the rural areas of America.

We in the North are accustomed to advise the surplus population from the South to go back to the farm with which we presume that all rural youth are familiar, or we urge those already there to remain.

Whatever might be said jokingly about the WPA, there have been made under its auspices several surveys of unusual social value. One of these is, "Rural Youth: Their Situation and Prospects."

This survey shows that rural youth are, if anything, worse off than urban youth. Those who say that, at least, youth on the farm need not starve, put the matter of getting something to eat, important as that is, on too elevated a plane.

We quote from the introduction to the booklet: "Such summary disposition of the matter fails to take account of the other necessities of human living or of the fact that there are thousands of rural young people in small towns who are just as desperate as their city cousins for a chance to develop their capacities and to banish the spectre of insecurity."

Furthermore, machines are becoming a menace to those who do remain on the farm. Dr. W. W. Alexander, head of the Farm Security Administration, called attention a few days ago to the fact that many tenants, sharecroppers and small farmers are being "squeezed out" by machinery.

"Machines of all sorts—tractors, combines, corn pickers, cotton pickers, cane harvesters—are invading every section of the country, lowering the cost of production and destroying the demand for millions of hours of man labor," Dr. Alexander stated.

Under the circumstances, it is easy to advise youth in urban areas to go back to the farm, but much more difficult for youth to take the advice.



Courier Farm Column, By H. L. Price, Draws Nation-Wide Attention

Editor's Note: Since the first column "To the Farmer" was published in The Pittsburgh Courier a few months ago, H. L. Price, Courier Farm Editor, has received hundreds of letters from individuals and concerns interested in the welfare of the Negro farmer. Two of the letters he has received are herewith produced:

statements emphasized too much serve as a setback to the race as a whole.

An article was carried in one of the leading daily newspapers which said, "Attorney says Negro leaders often fail. Negro leadership generally has failed the Negro masses miserably and often exploits them for its own ends. As a result of such exploitation employment is denied the Negro and his educational advantages are limited. * * * The economic, religious and educational chaos prevailing among the Negro masses is largely brought about by the selfishness and often criminal tendencies of certain Negro leaders."

From a psychological point of view, such statements have served as a means of discouraging and creating a feeling of inferiority in the race. I need not say that this is the very thing that intelligent Negroes as well as friends of the race have been fighting to break down for years. There is, has been and probably always will be, where men and race are concerned, failure. The fact that our American social regime is in a turmoil is evidence that leaders have failed and not just Negro leaders, but leaders of the world at large are failing. It is interesting to note however, that they are not boasting about it, rather they are trying to make amends in preference to poisoning the minds of the public against them.

NEAL RODGERS.

Jefferson City, Tenn.

SENATORS SEEK TO AID TENANTS

Josh Lee's Proposal Would Convert Landless Workers into Farm Owners; Shipstead Fights for Mortgage Relief

Converting landless tenants into self-supporting farm owners is the ambitious project proposed this week by 52 Senators— more than enough to pass it through their side of Congress.

Their signatures were on legislation introduced by Senator Josh Lee (Dem. Okla.), calling for government insurance of farm purchases in much the same manner as Uncle Sam now insures home mortgages under the Federal Housing Administration.

The bill authorizes an appropriation of $1,000,000,000 and provides that loans shall be made to tenants for periods up to 40 years at 3 per cent interest. The Federal government would assume 80 per cent of the risk. Tenants who lacked funds for a down payment of 10 per cent could overcome that obstacle by giving liens on a part of their crops.

Present Program Deficient

The Lee bill is proposed as a substitute for the present farm tenancy program, under which the government is spending $25,000,000 a year to purchase farms. The farms are then resold to selected tenants.

"This has reached only a few thousand tenants each year," Lee said. "It is just a drop in the bucket, but it has demonstrated that a tenancy program will work."

Meanwhile, Senator Henrik Shipstead, Minnesota Farmer-Laborite continued to press for action on his bill to prevent debt-burdened farm owners from being converted into tenants.

The Shipstead measure provides that debtors who are unable to meet their mortgage payments to Federal lending agencies may obtain a judicial reappraisal of the value of the property and secure a new loan at the lower figure.

Deficiency Judgments Banned

Deficiency judgments taken by these agencies are cancelled and this practice is forbidden in the future.

"Many are laboring under the misapprehension that the farm mortgage problem has been solved," declared the tall Minnesotan. "Since 1934 no less than 60,000 farm mortgages have been foreclosed by Federal lending agencies alone. Not only have these farmers been deprived of their land, but a deficiency judgment has been levied against them which pauperizes them for the rest of their lives."

Shipstead pointed out that an investment of $220,000,000 is involved in the 60,000 farms foreclosed. More than $132,000,000 in farm lands, he said, are now held by Federal lending agencies.

If his bill gets through, Shipstead emphasized, farmers who lost their land may reclaim it at its real value and Uncle Sam will assist them in financing the undertaking.

One-Variety Cotton Wins

The movement in favor of planting one variety of cotton is a notable feature in the development of more profitable method of farming in Georgia, and the success of this idea has been demonstrated by the Fortsonia One-Variety Cotton Club, of Elbert county which has just passed its fifth birthday, with members reaping substantial cash rewards.

A dispatch from Elberton tells us that Fortsonia is in the flatwoods section of Elbert county, known for its fertility since the days of the American Revolution. Historically, it was there that Nancy Hart captured her Tories. Her restored cabin, on the original site, is a show place of the community.

The cotton club was organized in 1934. W. O. Hudson has been its only president and he vouches for the fact that the 103 members who planted 700 acres of cotton this year averaged an increase of 80 pounds to the acre over the miscellaneous planting of previous years. The cotton is bringing a premium of 5 dollars a bale and the seed are in great demand. One club member made 70 bales of cotton on 69 acres.

Mr. Hudson points out that this is done in a section once considered incapable of growing cotton on a commercial scale.

It is obvious that to whatever extent Georgia farmers are to continue planting cotton, methods which will yield a higher return per acre are worth practicing, but the members of the Fortsonia Club have extended their activities to cover other crops. Three years ago it sponsored a proposal that every home should have a garden. The result was that thousands of cans of surplus vegetables were put up in the school cannery to supply local tables for the entire year.

One result of this garden campaign was the discovery that the flatwoods soil would grow lettuce equal to anything on the market. This winter the club members are planting about 50 acres and hope to realize a good cash crop next spring.

The club encouraged the growing of lespedeza and clover along with grain and other crops. The response was so good that four combines of the latest type are now kept busy at harvest time.

The next logical step was to develop the livestock industry. Foundation herds of purebred cattle and brood mares are now owned by many club members.

All this is one effective answer to those counsels of despair to the effect that farm life in Georgia is dreary and unprofitable.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
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GENERAL

The Farmer's Guide

Interesting News and Helpful Hints For Those Who Till The Soil

Race Farmers Taking Advantage of Farm Credit Administration Loans

ACCORDING to Cornelius King, special assistant to the governor of the Farm Credit administration, 20 per cent or more of the production credit association borrowers in many associations in the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana are of the Negro race. Short-term credit has been provided this year through the facilities of the FCA for more than 5000 Negro farmers in those states, "and incidentally," said Mr. King, "colored farmers in those states are considered good credit risks of these institutions."

The 5000 colored members in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana share in the ownership of $1,033,000 of voting stock purchased by member-borrowers of these production credit associations. They thus get away from the loan shark methods formerly in vogue among many landlords.

The farm credit representative called attention to the savings realized by farmers who borrow through production credit associations, by reason of the low interest only for the time he actually has the money. Prior methods did not give the borrowers a report on what he owed. Mr. King pointed out that with these savings farmers "are frequently able to save as much as one-fourth or one-third of their interest charges."

Farmers borrow from productions credit associations for various purposes, such as producing, feeding, harvesting, and marketing of crops; to finance breeding, fattening, and marketing of livestock and some borrow for general agricultural purposes including repair, improvement, or alteration of farm buildings. "A large proportion of farmers use at least a part of their loans for either the purchase of seed feed, fertilizer, spray materials, machinery, or farm supplies or for the purchase of cattle, swine, or workstock; or to hire farm labor." he said.

Farm Food Habits Reflect Food Grown In Various Regions

FOOD habits on a farm reflect the main crops of that region, but for a well-balanced and safe diet farm families can well pay attention to some of the food production that is not naturally important—or easy—in their regions.

Writing in the Agricultural Yearbook, food economists of the Bureau of Home Economics say that pork is particularly popular in the Corn Belt—but liberal supplies of vegetables and fruits improve the diet. Meats are favored in the grazing regions, but gardens are desirable even if this calls for pump irrigation, and milk from a dairy cow offers a desirable addition to beef.

Farm families use milk freely in counties noted for milk production, and milk is perhaps the best single contribution to a good diet. The economists also find a high average use of milk in some areas where little milk goes to market—where if a family keeps a cow at all, it might as well try to use as much as possible of the supply.

Almost everywhere a part of the farmers report getting considerable living from gardens and orchards. In the Southeast, sorghums, field peas, beans, and corn are staples usually grown at home, with meat, milk, and vegetable production recommended for improving the diet.

Farm War Prosperity Likely To Be False, Nation's Farmers Are Warned

NO doubt a long war in Europe would have its effect in this country on such things as land values, credit, foreign trade, and general business conditions, Dr. C. W. Warburton, director of the extension service of the United States Department of Agriculture, said in a message to extension workers throughout the country. Though such a war might bring temporary relief for some surplus problems, it is very likely, in the long run, to aggravate farm problems.

It would, therefore, seem the part of wisdom, he said for farmers to intrench themselves for whatever conditions may come, rather than to over invest in production for uncertain future demand in the face of present ample supplies and prices that are still below parity.

"To that end extension workers in every county can do much to advise farm people and to furnish them the facts about the situation which they need in making their decisions." Doctor Warburton pointed out. "County agents are now at work in all counties of agricultural importance. County home demonstration agents are employed in nearly two-thirds of the counties and many counties have assistant county and home demonstration agents."

These agents have organized and are working with committees of local farm people in practically every county and they have developed a network of more than a half million voluntary local leaders through whom they can quickly reach farmers in every nook and corner of their counties.

AGRICULTURE - 1939 GEORGIA
CONDITION OF

Macon Ga., Telegraph
January 9, 1939

A Negro Farmer's Philosophy

Wade Bell and Henry Land, two Negro farmers in the neighborhood of Bond's store on the line between Twiggs and Bibb counties, met at a public gin a few years ago and discussed their situation.

"I have made 35 bales of cotton this year," said Bell.

"How much profit have you got in it?" asked Land.

"I don't know; maybe nothing."

"Here's the difference between us," explained Land. "I make one bale, and it is mine—all mine. You make 35, and they all belong to somebody else. You have nothing. You have no money in the bank, and you've got to borrow and get credit to make some more cotton for somebody else next year. I made only 15 bales this year, but nobody can tell me when I must sell it. It is mine. When I sell it I'm putting the money in the bank. I've had as high as five thousand dollars to invest at one time. I might lose it that way, but it was mine to lose. I can make some more. How is it done? I live at home. I keep this year's meat eighteen months if I wish, or I sell off my surplus. I raise cows and send them out to bring back milk. The milk and butter I can sell after my family has eaten all it wants. My wife keeps a hundred hens and we have eggs to eat all along; we sell what we can't eat. My wife likes to work in the garden. I haul oak leaves and pile them high on the ground. This makes more vegetables than I can eat and give away; then I have much to sell. I feed pumpkins to a few steers, and save the fertilizer, and make fifty bushels of corn to the acre on land that never before sprouted peas. I added 60 cents worth of cotton-seed meal to the pumpkins last year, and sent three steers to the fat cattle show. I cut poles for the electric company and split posts for sale. I raise some cotton, but not until I am fixed so every bale I raise will belong to me—to nobody else. I bought my home with a hundred dollars, after I had worked three years for ten cents a day and my feed."

He bought the Joe Billy Andrews place with a good house and 58 acres of land. He considered the hundred dollars all he paid, because the place yielded the other four payments of one hundred dollars each. Later he bought two hundred more acres on the river. He got his start with a "stifled" or stiff-legged mule and two oxen that he raised. He bought the two-legged mule, he says, because it was cheap. Later he had ten good mules.

Wade Bell was inspired by this talk. He had been to school only three days in his life, but he studied arithmetic under his oldest son. Now he has one of the best homes in the rural sections and is owner of 400 acres.

Eastman, Ga. Advertiser
February 16, 1939

OF INTEREST TO THE FARMERS

By J. A. Mauldi

Now is the time for Dodge County farmers to decide which practice they want to use this year for conserving and improving the soil, County Agent J. A Mauldin said this week.

In planning the 1939 farming operations, he advised, farmers should take full advantage of the assistance offered by the federal farm program for adoption of soil-building practices.

"There are undoubtedly a number of things that farmers in this county have been considering doing to build up their farms," Mr. Mauldin declared, "but these things have been put off because of the lack of funds.

"That's where the Triple-A farm program comes in. A sum of money is set-up for each farm with this program for the carrying out of approved practices. That money is there for Georgia farmers, but, in order to get it, they have to earn it by adopting practices that will build and conserve soil.

"For example, a farmer may want to plant trees to protect a piece of land from erosion or he may want to put a particularly poor field in trees. Under the soil building features of the program, assistance in planting the trees will be allowed at the rate of $7.50 an acre, up to the amount available for the individual farm.

"Assistance for other practices, such as terracing, liming, seeding legumes, green-manure crops turned under, contour listing and establishing pastures, is allowed at comparable rates," he added.

Details of the approved practices and rates of assistance may be obtained from the county agent's office.

NEGRO ANNUAL FARMERS CONFERENCE

Friday, February 10, Dodge county negro farmers will gather at the Peabody High school in Eastman, to attend the farmers' conference. The meeting will begin promptly at 10:30 o'clock a. m., in the school auditorium and every negro farmer and home-maker in Dodge county is urged to be present.

County Agent, J. A. Mauldin, Mrs. Kathleen Carswell, County Home Demonstration Agent, Prof. W. L. Bowen, County School Superintendent, will be among those who will appear on the program. Mrs. Carswell will speak on canning for the family budget, while Mr. Mauldin will speak on how to plant to receive the maximum from the 1939 soil conservation program.

The main speaker will be one of the State officials.

Pauline Riggs, negro Home Agent and Emery Thomas, negro County Agent, will discuss their program of work for the year. Both agents are urging the farmers and home-makers to take advantage of this conference which has for its objective a good start makes a good end.

NEGRO COUNTY COUNCIL ORGANIZED

Saturday, January 28, 22 Home Demonstration Club officers met at the Peabody High school at 11:00 o'clock to organize a County Council. The Council was organized under the direction of Camelia Weems, State Agent for negro work. Eight communities were represented. They are: Harrell, Mt. Olive, Free Gift, Rhine, Evergreen, Dempsey, Copeland and Zion Hill.

Officers of the County Council are as follows: President, Polly Harrell; Vice-President, McClennon; Secretary, Mary E. Burch; Treasurer, Cynthia Coffee; Reporter, Josephine Harrell.

Chairmen of Committees

Clothing, Bessie Williams; Garden, Cathie Cursen; Home Improvement, Elvinia Laufkin; Foods, Laverta Barden, Recreation, Dorothea Thomas; Poultry, Mannie Smith; Home Dairy, Clara Smith; Health and Sanitation, Lula Carson; Education, Flossie Hayes; 4-H Club Sponsor, Effie Coffee.

Macon Ga. Telegraph
March 20, 1939



AROUND THE CIRCLE

By Eugene Anderson

Eugene Talmadge's Wife Is Farmer in Family and Neighbors Point to Evidence of Her Ability to Manage

"Before the federal government ruined Negro farm labor, people could make money on the farm," said Mrs. Eugene Talmadge at her new Mount Vernon pattern of an elegant brick home, near the McRae airport, on Sugar creek.

"I paid for this home with the cotton I saved. But now the Negroes don't want to work any more on the farm. They prefer the relief money in town. I'm using white help, and I can get along very well with my white employes if I'll get right out with them and say, 'Let's do thus and so.' You can't drive them or order them around. You must get into the work with them and lead them. They'll stay by you."

"Where's the 'governor'?" She always refers to him as the 'governor.'

"I am expecting him to come down from Atlanta tonight; if he doesn't come tonight he'll be here for the week-end. The children all come home then, and we have a house full."

"How many bedrooms have you in the house?"

She stopped and counted up, and answered five. One of them is about forty feet long.

"Were you trying to pattern after Mount Vernon?"

"No. I just wanted a house that would suit this hillside; and this style seemed to be the best I could figure out. The governor didn't want me to build up here. He thinks it's terrible to be up on these pebbles with no trees around, when we had such fine groves and rich soils down on the creek off the road. But I'll soon have pine groves all around the house. Don't you think these seedlings have done fine in one year? The man who planted the oats in here with a seed drill tore up some of the roots but he seemed to think if he didn't tear the little tree out of the ground it didn't matter. Fire is terrible in the woods, but the governor thinks 'controlled' fire is essential. He said it would be fine if we could actually prevent fire, but he says that's impossible and if the woods are not burned off occasionally a fire does real damage when it comes. But I hate to have fires. I think our people are more careful than they used to be."

Then she points to her pastures green with oats. The calves are on one, and the grade Jersey cows are on the other. A Hereford male heads the herd.

"I've had trouble with my cattle. They have pink eye and black leg. I can't describe the black leg, but it kills them right now. I'm told such troubles are due to poorly balanced ration; not enough dry food when they are grazing on the green. Come here and see my saddle filly. She's the daughter of a purebred stallion that was given to the governor. Ain't she the fattest thing? I haven't been riding her enough, and she's been standing around doing nothing. Come here, Pet."

And "Pet" came to the lot fence and stuck her face over to be "petted."

"I use her to keep up with the work going on over the farms. She is so fat now the girth has to be spliced with wire and then the saddle slides from side to side."

It was a man's saddle; and neighbors say Mrs. Talmadge rides in overalls all during work season.

"It's cheaper to buy meat from the stores than to try to feed your hands on home-cured meat," she said. "The workers won't eat so much. Home meat is too good."

Her new home is her delight. Water, lights, long reception hall, beautiful furniture, nice guest room, breakfast room—everything elegant but no telephone.

"They wanted four hundred and fifty dollars to connect me with McRae. Don't you know that's too much? I'm going down in the woods and cut my own poles and stretch my own wires, and I'll save money. Maybe I can connect with the Bell line about a mile over there at Scotland. I'll write the civil service commission, or somebody, and see what I can do."

The Sugar Creek home was burned years ago, and while Mr. Talmadge was commissioner of agriculture the family moved to Atlanta.

"Oh, how I worked to terrace and fix up the grounds around that governor's mansion in Atlanta! I told Mrs. Rivers it was up to her now to fix up the house."

Mrs. Talmadge thinks the 'governor' is a good farmer; and she says he wouldn't be ashamed to have him interviewed about his plans and ideas on the farm. But he says she's the farmer. Now, don't get the idea she's not up on politics. She knows all of the answers.

Down at Lumber City Mrs. D. W. Phillips was talking about her farming.

"Are you as good farmer as Mrs. Eugene Talmadge?" she was asked. "No, nobody is," she replied; and Dr. Pierce Harbin remarked, "Mrs. Talmadge is one of the most capable and industrious women in this country."

"What about your romance with the 'governor'? How did you and he happen to meet?" Mrs. Talmadge was asked.

"That's just too funny. I was a telegraph operator, and I was living with my first husband's mother over at Ailey; right there at Mount Vernon, you know. I had my little son John Peterson, and we thought the house was too big and scarey, and we talked of taking in a boarder or two for protection. You know when you are young you are afraid, but after you get older you are not afraid of anything or anybody. Uncle Billy Peterson came down from Atlanta and brought Mr. Talmadge. He'd seen the little fellow running around the capitol as a page or something. Uncle Billy saw how smart he was. He always was smart even at school. Ailey and Mount Vernon was a good place to practice law, so Uncle Billy brought him over to us to get board. I had to go and talk to them. I priced the board at $13.50 a month. Uncle Billy didn't look pleased. But Mr. Talmadge had been paying forty in Atlanta, and $13.50 seemed pretty reasonable to him. As they walked away Uncle Billy said:

"'Gene, I'm sorry you didn't see the older woman. She wouldn't have charged you more than ten dollars for that board. That young woman is a skinner.'"

Living Examples

The success stories of Georgia farmers established on their own property by government aid follow a generally well-defined path. All have been tenants or sharecroppers. They have seen the wastage of land, the futility of one-crop economy. Through little or no fault of their own, they had been reduced to desperation, skidding down a Tobacco road.

This rural rehabilitation program has been in operation now for several years and to any who follow the progress of the new farm owners, several things are striking.

One is that, as a group, these families are profiting more from their crops than the average farm owner. A second is that they approach the problem of land conservation in a more intelligent manner, that they are more awake to the need of resting the soil, rather than seeking to wrest its last drop of fertility in uneconomic crop uses. A third is that they have been brought to realize the value of livestock as an element in their profit-and-loss statements.

The story of Bernice R. Maples, of Colquitt county, published recently in The Constitution, is different only in detail from that of hundreds of other farmers who are finding a new security. Each of them is demonstrating the soundness of a program that makes landowners of hopeless tenants. But the story of Maples and his family is typical of a new era in Georgia agriculture, and it is not difficult to determine why the rehabilitation program presages new riches to the state, particularly in its example to other farmers.

With between 50 and 60 acres of a 149-acre farm under cultivation, Mr. Maples is growing, or plans to grow this year, some six major crops. Oats, for his mules; millet, for his hogs; peas, for hay; tobacco, as a cash crop; cotton, as a cash crop; sweet potatoes and corn for food and cash. In addition, there are four purebred sows and 20 pigs; a poultry flock started with 75 hens and roosters, and uncounted biddies; a cow. More than these, a half-acre garden, for fresh vegetables and for canning goods. The bottom would have to drop out of the market for four crops in one year before he would be deprived of a cash income of moderate total. With a fair profit on each crop, he will receive more cash income than any neighbor depending upon one cash crop and buying food and feed needs in the market place.

The economic sermon of diversification has been preached for many years. Perhaps these now numerous examples will be of more value. If they are not, then many of the farm owners of today will be the tenants of tomorrow.

Uses Hands, Head And Soil To End Sharecropper Days

By The Associated Press

CORDELE, Ga., July 9.—Thirteen years ago C. O. Collins was a sharecropper, farming "on halves" they call it in this part of the cotton country, and clearing about $100 for an entire year of hard work.

Today Farmer Collins is a substantial citizen with a firm conviction: "The only excuse for any man remaining a sharecropper is his own shiftlessness and the general habit of spending the Winter at leisure of sorts."

Fruit Of 13 Years Toil

He had that same conviction 13 years ago when he wangled enough credit to buy 25 acres, a mule, 37 chickens and a plow and went to work for himself.

To show for that toil he now has 102 spic and span acres and up-to-date home and supreme confidence in his theory that a man can get ahead on the soil if he uses his hands and his head, and treats his soil right.

As a sharecropper, Mr. Collins had put every bit of land he could nto cotton and peanuts. But now, ie's "death on soil improvement," goes in for cover crops instead of the fertility-depleting textile plant.

"There's not a stalk of cotton on my place...but I've got some mighty fine turkeys coming along. There's my big cash crop. Last year I sold $540 worth, at a net profit of $340. That beats cotton!"

As safeguard against trouble with the temperamental birds, Mr. Collins also raises hogs—markets two crops a year.

In cold cash last year he cleared $600, which didn't include food and shelter for himself, his wife, five daughters and a son. A lot of the food came from his big garden, and what couldn't be eaten or sold was preserved.

All six children help on the farm, but they don't miss school, even if Mrs. Collins has to do the field chores that would conflict with classes. The Collinses have read about the statistics which say the South supplies a lot of the Nation's population and the children "will all go through high school, at least."

It's a hard job, but one with much satisfaction, says ex-sharecropper Collins. Next year he thinks he'll be able to ease up a bit, hire a man to help.

Savannah, Ga., News
June 25, 1939

GEORGIA NEGROES PLAN EXPANSION

Laying Stress Now On Beef Cattle Industry

BY BENJAMIN F. HUBERT

During the past three years, negro farmers have shown keen interest in beef cattle as a source of cash income for their farms. Starting in Savannah where the first fat stock show for Georgia was staged, negro boys and girls have been gradually expanding their program of raising beef cattle and fattening beef cattle for market at the fat stock shows at Savannah, Augusta, Macon, Columbus, Atlanta and at other county fat stock shows. Last year according to the records compiled by Alexander Hurse, negro boys' club agent for Georgia with headquarters at Georgia State College, ninety-seven negro boys and girls fed out beef cattle and sold them on the five large markets in Georgia. Records show that many of these young negro farmers received more cash net income from the beef cattle exhibited and sold at the fairs than from any other farm product marketed during the past year. The youngsters on Georgia farms have at last come to realize that money can be made from fattening out beef cattle especially if they are careful in maneuvering feed stock for these cattle.

The cattle program for 4-H Club members and other young negro farmers for the ensuing year is one that will mean a great deal to Georgia. Alexander Hurse, state club agent, Z. T. Hubert, assistant club agent, P. H. Stone, director of extension service for negroes are all making plans for larger participation on the part of negroes in the beef cattle business than ever before. One change in the policy and program for this year is that most of the cattle fattened out for the show will come from the farms of Georgia rather than from the farms in Texas and other states. This will mean, first of all, that these beef cattle being raised in Georgia will not need to be acclimated. The boys and girls will start off with a calf that was bred and raised in Georgia and will be used to Georgia conditions. He should fatten out more rapidly. The second result is that the money spent for these calves will remain in Georgia and help build up Georgia's farming industry.

The Georgia State College is particularly interested in this whole program of crop diversification. Several years ago, the college purchased a pure bred beef bull and two young beef cows and has since that time bred beef cattle along with dairy cattle in an effort to teach the boys and girls the value of good beef stock. This year the college plans to get four feeder calves and teach the boys and girls how to feed out these calves in the most economical way. In the Log Cabin Community in Hancock county, a project under the general sponsorship of the college, twenty-five calves will be fattened for the stock show. Near Milledgeville in Baldwin county, the native home of Alexander Hurse where his brothers now operate a large farm, twenty-four beef cattle will be fattened and made ready for the stock show. There are other communities scattered all over the state where farmers have got together and made plans for growing their feed stuffs to feed out beef cattle and hogs in order that they may place quality cattle on the early spring markets. This interest in live stock and in providing on their farms feed for these cows and hogs is one of the most promising and hopeful signs in farming business of Georgia today.

According to records of the extension service, there were 27,023 negro boys and girls enrolled in the 4-H Club work in Georgia last year. If each one of these boys and girls could be encouraged to fatten out one calf with an average net profit of $20 on each calf, there would be a total of $540,460 additional money coming to negro farms in Georgia. If these boys and girls raise the feed stuff, for their animals, it would mean that they would have a market for their labor. Added to this is the manure saved for soil improvement and the fine training in care of animals that every boy and girl will get in fattening calves for the market.

Sparks, Ga., Eagle
September 29, 1939

Dave Jackson, well-known and thrifty colored citizen, who does general farming and trading, also gives close attention to the raising of hogs and on Monday made a fine sale to Mr. H. J. Hall at Sparks. Dave sold 159 hogs which weighed 30,605 pounds, This was one of the largest hog sales that has been made at our Cook county stock yards in some time and shows what can be done by careful attention to them. Dave is to be commended for his close attention to his business affairs in which he has been successful.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

GEORGIA

Eastman, Ga. Advertiser
June 22, 1939

FACTS ABOUT GEORGIA

Taking Georgia's white farm population alone, the rate of tenancy increased from 41.8 per cent in 1900 to 56.9 per cent in 1935. During this 35 year period there was a numerical increase of white farm tenant families of nearly 40,000, while in the same period the number of Negro tenant families decreased by more than 9,000, so that now three-fifths of Georgia's farm tenant families, as shown above, are of the white race. These figures mean that more and more of Georgia's rural white population is choosing between unemployment and tenant farms which Negroes operated heretofore.

Negroes Are Told To Stay on Farms

McINTOSH, Nov. 10 (AP)—Negroes attending their Liberty county fair were urged today to remain on farms and "magnify their jobs."

The speaker, B. F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College for Negroes, declared the farm offered them their best opportunity.

The agricultural fair was held at the county 4-H camp, Georgia's first camp established for Negroes.

Collapse of Farm "Planning"

"It's a shocking picture that the world's agricultural 'planners' look out upon when they survey the results of their handiwork in the crops that have been their particular concern," says the New York Times, which supported President Roosevelt for re-election in 1936, but has grown more and more lukewarm toward many of the New Deal administration's policies.

After discussing the sad plight of the wheat and corn growers, the Times says:

For the present plight of cotton the direct responsibility of our government's policy is a very heavy one. The crop restriction policy itself is indefensible on several grounds, but much worse in practical effect has been the government loan policy. Under that policy the government has placed an entire year's American cotton crop in warehouses; the American price has been kept above the world price, and as a result, in the "cotton year" that ends with this month the United States will have exported only about 3,400,000 bales, the smallest export in sixty years.

In the 1932 year the exports of cotton amounted to 8,766,000 bales. The difference is not to be accounted for by any decline in world demand. On the contrary, in the same period in which our exports fell off by more than 5,000,000 bales world consumption of all cotton rose by about 3,000,000 bales. Other producing countries have stepped into the place in world markets that we abandoned.

As a cure for this, the government does not propose abandonment of either the restriction policy or the more damaging loan policy. Instead, and in spite of the bad results in wheat, Secretary Wallace announces that beginning today the government will subsidize the export of cotton to the extent of 1 1-2 cents a pound. In other words, having artificially, and at great government expense, held cotton off the world market, we are now artificially, and at further government expense, to try to force some of it onto the world market.

But the results will be much more serious than in the case of wheat. For cotton is a raw material that goes into manufactures. What we will be doing is to give foreigners cheaper raw cotton to compete against our own manufacturers in our own markets and in world markets. To compensate, Mr. Wallace will also subsidize exports of finished cotton goods, and suggests limitations on imports of cotton goods. But this leads merely to the building up of a whole series of bureaucratic controls. And we are doing all this at the very time when we have placed countervailing duties on importations of silks from Italy and a whole range of products from Germany, on the ground that these importations are subsidized.

"In other words," the Times concludes "we are deliberately undertaking what we officially penalize as unfair and demoralizing competition when it is done by other nations. This is the end result of the 'orderly government planning' that was to supplant the 'chaos' of uncontrolled agriculture."

The Farmer's Guide

Interesting News and Helpful Hints For Those Who Till The Soil

Agriculture: A New Frontier For The College-Trained Men

8-5-39

SUCH DARK and forbidding pictures have been drawn of Southern agricultural conditions that all too frequently many of the brighter aspects are completely obscured. The pressure, however, upon the Negro colleges to meet increasing demands for new outlets for their graduates, will eventually lead to wider exploration into agricultural possibilities.

To the average student, the very suggestion of agriculture or rural life, instantly brings to their minds long hours in the field, drudgery, little or no recreation, and an uncertain income which offers no economic security.

Because these conditions do exist, county, state and national governments are organizing to meet the challenge and to take steps to make farm life more attractive. Thus, in between these agencies and the farmer there is a steadily increasing number of trained workers who are helping to interpret the new objective to the farmer. Negro colleges are adding courses in rural education in order to provide teachers for replacements and new opportunities in rural schools.

Another important group is composed of the itinerant teachers of vocational agriculture and home economics. Men and women who qualify for these positions must have at least a bachelor of science degree and the number of there workers is gradually increasing each year.

Under the United States Extension Service, there is still another group of these college trained men and women who are touching and influencing the lives of thousands of Negro farm families. In addition to about 450 of these county workers there are two Negro state leaders in most of the Southern states—a man and a woman and two Negro field supervisors over seven and eight states respectively.

The Farm Security Administration with about twenty-three rural housing projects are increasing the number of Nego nurses, home economists and farm managers.

BLACK BELT HAS YOUNG VITALITY

Transition From Cotton To Cattle Has Changed Area's People, Too

7-28-39

BY BEM PRICE

Amazing as has been the change in the physical features of the Black Belt, the people have changed more —without really being aware of it.

Prior to the War Between the States, the people for the most part were large land owners, raising mostly cotton and corn. They had vast plantations—some 24,000 acres —worked entirely by slave labor.

At the end of the war they returned home to find themselves land poor. Their labor was gone and they had no capital with which to buy more. They were forced to sell or mortgage their land and the mortgages were later foreclosed.

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Old Manors Perk Up

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The large owner found himself with comparatively little land left, and he was forced to go to work for himself. For the generation immediately after the war the transition was different. The section suffered.

At the end of the war they returned home to find themselves land poor. Their labor was gone and they had no capital with which to buy more. They were forced to sell or mortgage their land and the mortgages were later foreclosed.

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first time in many years, pasture near Selma. "This whole tation homes are boasting coats of paint and receiving The atmos- eeded repairs. young men, and all that section is one of suit. vitality. Young men are over. The recent Southern en's Tour is a good exam- most of the men on the re young and the Black ers who greeted them were

Cotton Helped Some

As cotton came back on the market, conditions improved somewhat but the pre-war aristocracy had most vanished.

The present generation presents an entirely different picture. While its constituents are from the sturdy, intelligent stock, they have

problem of restoring prosperity to but the Black Belt with a keen intelligence and has finally hit upon cattle as the solution. Their solution is a good one, for the same the pastures are restoring exhausted by decades of cotton. and

taking over. Cattlemen's Tour is a good example, for most of the men on the trip were young and the Black Belt owners were young men, and all are following the previous generation is by no

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
August 14, 1939

Negroes As Farmers

County agents have done a valuable work in teaching Negro farmers, as well as many of the white farmers, to take an interest in other things than cotton; and it has been demonstrated in thousands of instances that the farmer whose primary objective is to live at home and raise all the food and feed he needs is on the average more comfortable than any other type of citizen. As some have expressed it, if he makes money-getting his one objective he will starve to death; but if he thinks of money as something to come only after he is assured that he will have plenty to eat, and that his animals will be properly fed and cared for, he has a better chance than almost any other citizen of like circumstances to live well, keep out of debt, and put aside some cash.

The report from the federal government's re-settlement project for Negroes near Montezuma indicates that each family operating with an average of two mules acquired nearly $1,000 during the first year. Statement is made by Project Manager Ward that each family came to the project completely stranded, having no clothes and no food. Yet with a little assistance and some supervision they made an average of nearly $600 in cash, and had an accumulation of nearly $400 worth of food and feed at the end of their first year's work. In what other business could they have obtained an equal income?

The white farmers who were given similar assistance at the Irwinville project have made an outstanding record, and more than twenty of them are said to have qualified as land purchasers.

Even among the farmers who do not get supervision and the easy credits allowed by the government, few fall below records like this provided they make first, all they need to eat, and next all their farm animals require.

Since the war that so devastated Georgia the man in the country has looked enviously upon the man who had a job in town; and all the children who could get an education in the country were taught that only in the towns and cities could they hope to find opportunity in life. The reason for that unfortunate viewpoint was that the only markets dependably established were for cotton. Georgians had for generations devoted themselves to the production of a single crop at a time. At first all wanted to raise indigo, then it was discovered that Georgia could produce fine tobacco, and everybody dropped indigo and took up tobacco culture on lands where now nobody recalls ever having heard of tobacco growing. They forgot about tobacco because its culture was forsaken when the cotton gin was developed. All quit tobacco and indigo and went to cotton. They shipped the cotton to New Englind and bought back the cloth, paying transportation charges both ways. Then they bought their meat and meal flour, coffee, sugar, tobacco, beef, mutton pork, chickens, eggs and work animals and all they wanted to wear, and paid high transportation charges from other states. The cotton buyer had one pay day in the year, and that necessitated a credit system on which were pyramided interest charges that would have wiped out long ago any other industry in the world. Many farmers had to pay pawnbrokers' rates and more for the accommodation required.

The livestock and live-at-home programs eliminate that ruinous credit system, and farmers who strive for twelve pay days a year instead of one, are finding a prosperity that has never before been known in Georgia rural life.

The diversification that has been preached for nearly two hundred years is at last being realized.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

Atlanta Ga. Journal
April 28, 1939

Georgia Farms Go Forward

IT IS PECULIARLY cheering, in days like these, to come across a booklet entitled "Georgia Farms Go Forward." So much has been said about the ills of cotton, the woes of tenancy and the weight of other rural problems, that we might be led to think of all our farm interests as going backward. If any one is so sadly mistaken, he should procure a copy of this fifty-page booklet, which is the annual report of the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, read it from cover to cover, enjoy its wealth of pictures, ponder its revealing facts, and be grateful for the opportunity of living in a commonwealth like ours.

The Agricultural Extension Service is a federal-state co-operative agency, instituted twenty-five years ago "to demonstrate to farm families the better methods of making a living from the farm and of improving the farm home." Its headquarters are in the University of Georgia's College of Agriculture, at Athens; but its work is carried on throughout the State, reaching directly the men and women, the boys and girls who are on the farms and for whom the Extension Service exists. The key workers are the county agricultural and county home demonstration agents, with whom are associated a staff of highly trained agricultural specialists. These specialists, we are told, serve as the "educational contact" between the College of Agriculture, the experiment stations and other sources of research and discovery, on the one hand, and the county extension agents who teach the improved farm and home methods. The system is a model of common sense and scientific spirit, a union of the best thought and the most efficient action. The director of extension is Walter S. Brown; the extension editor, under whom the bulletin, "Georgia Farms Go Forward," was prepared is Whitney Tharin.

The bulletin, which is largely an outline report for the last calendar year, covers a wide diversity of subjects, such as agricultural engineering, beef cattle and sheep, cotton and tobacco, dairying, farm management, feed and forage crops, forestry and naval stores, hogs, horticulture, marketing, poultry, rural electrification, soil conservation, work stock, food preservation and use, home improvement, home industries, nutrition, 4-H Club work, and Negro extension work. In most of the fields of activity indicated by these topics, the year 1938 witnessed substantial progress and in some of them extraordinary achievements.

In the case of beef cattle, for instance, there was an increase of one hundred per cent, as compared with 1937, in the number of Georgia-bred animals, at the district shows, which graded medium or better. Seven hundred and forty-eight pure-bred beef-type bulls and 441 pure-bred or high-grade beef-type heifers were placed on Georgia farms during the year. Four new foundation herds of pure-bred beef cattle were established; and 1,769 other pure-bred or high-grade beef animals, in addition to those already mentioned, were brought into the State co-operatively by 4-H Club members and adult farmers.

Farm dairying, a prime object of which is to insure adequate dairy products for every farm family, went steadily forward. "A milk cow was placed on 1,553 farms which previously did not have one. Approximately a million gallons of milk were sold through farmer-owned co-operative milk-distributing plants in 1938, netting the producers $50,000 in more efficient handling." There were also marked gains in feed and forage crops.

A particularly interesting section of the report deals with forestry. Upwards of twenty-eight thousand acres were forested last year, as against some nineteen thousand in 1937. The great potential values of timber as a crop and the importance of efficient forestry methods are evidently becoming more and more widely recognized. Significant, too, is the fact that ten soil-conservation districts, comprising forty-seven counties and covering an area of more than nine and a half million acres, have been established. Fifty-one other counties have taken steps to share in the vital work of controlling and preventing soil erosion.

Rural electrification in Georgia scored an increase of 200 per cent in 1938 over the preceding year. Electric service was extended 10,000 farms in 79 counties. "There are at present thirty-four Rural Electrification Administration co-operatives in the State. When completed these projects will serve 45,322 customers. Twenty-five of these co-operatives, with 3,833 miles of lines energized, served 15,532 customers as of December 31, 1938. The allotments made to date affect 129 counties. Adding the farms served by private utilities to those served by REA co-operatives brings the total number of Georgia farms electrified to more than 30,000."

The items we have mentioned are but a few of the thousands set forth in the report of the Agricultural Extension Service. With all of its problems and deficiencies, our commonwealth is astir with enterprise. Truly Georgia farms are going forward.

Savannah Ga. Press
December 2, 1939

FARM COMMUNITY OF NEGROES GROWS

HILLMAN ESTATE ADDED TO THEIR HOLDINGS NEAR SPARTA

By BENJAMIN F. HUBERT
President, Georgia State College
(Written for the Associated Press)

On November 14, negroes came into possession of an additional tract of land containing 900 acres, in the Log Cabin community, near Sparta. This farm, formerly the Hillman estate, is considered one of the finest farms in Middle Georgia. The farm was once the home of the late Camilla Hubert, mother of the Hubert children who pioneered in establishing the Log Cabin community center as a demonstration of what negroes may do for themselves to improve economic and social conditions in the rural South.

On this farm, one of the prize estates of Hancock county, are two large streams and several smaller streams of excellent water in which fish ponds were once established. There are 2,000,000 feet of pine timber. The 150 acres of bottom land produce from 50 to 75 bushels of corn per acre without fertilization. There is plenty of pasture land with carpet and Bermuda grass already seeded. There is a beautiful home built over 100 years ago, with twelve rooms built out of yellow pine. There are several barns and outhouses and one additional settlement.

Benjamin F. Hubert's mother was born a slave on the large farm described in his article here. Purpose of the new project, he said, will be to seek an answer to the questions: "Can farming be made to pay? Can farm life be made sufficiently attractive that young people will want to remain on the farms?"

William Heath will take charge on January 1. He is a native of Warren county ,adjoining Hancock, and has a remarkable record as a farmer. On a place less favored than the Hancock county project, Heath produced 500 bushels of corn, 55 bales of cotton, 300 bushels of oats, 137 bushels of wheat, 108 bushels of peas, 75 gallons of syrup, five tons of velvet beans and five tons of hay.

Heath has fifteen hogs, plenty of chickens and other things necessary to make life comfortable on the farm.

Heath's objectives in the future provide for the production of larger quantities of feed for cattle and other live stock, the opening up and reseeding of permanent pasture, and the utilization of the timber lands.

Tractors and improved modern machinery will serve to lighten and expedite farm work.

Pure-bred Hereford beef cattle will be used as one of the main sources of farm income. Electric lights have been installed, and all modern improvements will be made to demonstrate how a farm in Middle Georgia can offer economic and social satisfaction that will make life for negroes on the farms of Georgia worthwhile.

Plans at the Log Cabin community call for the expansion of this community to include several thousand additional acres of land in adjoining neighborhoods that are not now being profitably farmed.

The Georgia State College is following closely the developments in this and other communities in Georgia where experiments in soil building, cattle breeding and community progress in church and school after worthwhile suggestions as to how life on the farms of Georgia may be made satisfying to negroes who desire to remain on the farms of the South.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

GEORGIA

Atlanta Ga Journal
April 28, 1939

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Negro Teacher Blazes Trail as Farmer

Educator Leaves Class-Room To Show What Race Can Do; Doubles Investment in 18 Months

By The Associated Press.

Dr. Winfred B. Nathan, 39-year-old negro educator, holds four academic degrees, earned by study at eight colleges and universities in this country and Europe.

None of his study at the higher institutions, however, was in agriculture. Neither had this native of Jamaica, British West Indies, any practical experience in farming of any kind.

Stars From Scratch.

Yet 18 months ago, he quit his position as acting chairman of the department of education at the Atlanta University and took up dairy farming from scratch to prove something he had taught in the classroom for 11 years—in his own words, that:

"A negro does not have to go back to Africa to be self-sufficient economically. He does not have to go to the north, east or west. He can do it right here in the south—where freedom from slavery left him to find his fortune."

Doubles Value.

Nathan has proved this contention, he says, to his satisfaction. To convince others who may have doubts, he offers the following statements:

From an investment of approximately $33,000—roughly, $25,000 in cash and the rest in mortgage loans or other credit—he has in a year and a half been able to develop a modern, 100-acre, 90-cow dairy valued at $60,000.

At the same time, he has met all his obligations and earned a satisfastory salary.

He is furnishing profitable employment to 17 workmen, good living quarters and good living conditions to five families.

Only an Example.

As creditable as this achievement may be, Dr. Nathan regards it only as a demonstration of what can be done. It must be repeated with variations a thousand times over, he asesrts, if the negro's contribution to American civilization is to survive.

"There was a time," he says, "when we were bequeathed large sums by generous persons and philanthropic agencies to foster the social and intellectual development of the negro. But these donations will become less and less until they are no more. Many negro institutions are then likely to find themselves with a tremendous overhead but with no funds to carry on. If we are not to lose the services which these institutions can give our young people we must create wealth in order to support them.

Strength and Ability.

"It is quite possible for us to become a productive race, because we have the strength and ability to work. What is needed is an exodus of trained youth from our economic and industrial institutions that will take the initiative in creating small economic units that will provide work for skilled and unskilled people."

With that, Dr. Nathan outlined the following suggestions, drawn, he said, from his years of study and his recent practical experience:

"1. With the proper training, the negro is able to do anything that anybody else can.

"2. 'Proper training' does not mean he must go to Cornell University, for instance, to get a Ph. D. in agriculture. It means learning by doing—in other words, free exercise of his intelligence and common sense in a life situation. Therefore, there should be many more business enterprises for negroes than there are.

There's a Market.

"3. Racial lines should be forgotten in these industries. The negro should learn to compete in industry and business. If he makes better brick than anyone else, he will find a market for his brick. White men will buy his product but, mind you, only if it offers a competitive value. I know because I am selling 20 gallons of milk a day to white users.

"4. The semi-literate negro is anxious for leadership and is ready to give his full co-operation to efforts for his advancement. Therefore, it behooves our institutions and those who have benefited by the training they give to provide the leadership. Especially do we need advancement in such technical fields as baking, weaving, the raising, slaughtering and marketing of livestock, in industrial farming and food manufacture.

"Can Raise Money."

"5. And, finally, these industries can be financed. Some negroes have considerable money others less. They can pool their resources and get backing from government agencies or local banks. There mu be strict attention to developing integrity and honesty. Members of our race will attract capital and backing in proportion as they establish confidence in the investing as well as the buying public.

"For example, I can go to any local bank and borrow $1,000 to buy cattle. The reason is that they know I mean business, that I am attending to my business and I mean to repay the loan."

Nathan did not know anything about dairying when he took it up. Since then he has learned many things—that it requires system, close supervision, rigid sanitation, a knowledge of animal husbandry, feed crop production and land improvement. Other negroes, he emphasized, must learn similar lessons in this or any other field if they are to succeed.

Elaborate System.

His plant is located within five miles of Atlanta. It has a $3,500 deep well water system, sterilization apparatus, a $3,000 refrigeration system, filter room, laboratory for butterfat testing and bacteria counts and other modern aids. Up to date equipment, he finds, is a requisite in any business.

Dr. Nathan provides a garden tract for winter and summer vegetables for each of the families he employes. He furnishes mule-power to till the garden. Each family has a cow of its own and some also have hogs and goats. Schooling is encouraged—almost made compulsory—not only for children, but also for adults unable to read and write.

"Why Shouldn't We?"

The educator says that although he has found success and profit in dairying and regards it as an activity that could be copied by members of his race in many communities, there are other fields of equal or perhaps greater promise.

"For instance," he says, "I already have had plans drawn for a sausage factory. Then there should be large profits in a milk candy business.

"Other sections have made such enterprises pay rich profits. They have less God-given sunshine and other advantages than we. So why shouldn't we do as well or better?"

Savannah, Ga., Press
June 22, 1939

FARM EXPERIMENTS AT COLLEGE PROGRESS

PRESIDENT HUBERT REPORTS ON MONEY CROPS BEING TRIED

B. F. Hubert, president of the Georgia State College, issued a progress report today on experiments being carried on at the school with the view of achieving "greater prosperity on our farms here in the Southeast."

"The college is attempting to find the answer to the question of satisfactory money crops for the Southeast," Hubert explained. "It is also seeking ways in which the farmer may carry on his farm business at minimum expense and receive maximum results.

During the last three yeares ramie has been grown at the college. This experiment is being carried on in co-operation with the Georgia Experiment Station at Griffin and is an effort to show how the coastal lands may be economically used in growing ramie. Experiments already have been made in an attempt to determine if cloth can be produced from this product as cheaply as from cotton. Ramie has a much stronger fiber than cotton. This plant is easily grown on low land. Capitalists in New York and Florida are actively interested in the outcome of this experiment.

"An acre of land at the college is also given over to a peanut experiment projects which is being carried on in co-operation with the Georgia Experiment Station. Eleven varieties of peanuts have been planted in an effort to determine the most prolific strain of peanuts for the coastal territory. It is felt that if the college can determine the peanut that will give a maximum yield and at the same time have the best flavor for the market, it will mean a great deal to farmers who are seeking money crops in Southeast Georgia.

"The college is entering into its third year of experimentation with sea island cotton or long staple cotton. An attempt is being made to develop a strain of cotton of the best long staple variety that will require a shorter growing season and produce a larger yield. Each stalk on this acre is checked and yields from the same are carefully recorded. Each year, improvement is shown through this selective process. Last year the college checked its yields of sea island cotton on the college farm against cotton grown in the Piedmont area at the Log Cabin center in Hancock county. The experiment showed that sea island cotton can be grown in high altitudes.

"The experiments with the TVA triple phosphate fertilizer have been carried on at the college for four years in an effort to find out the effect of different applications of phosphates on yields of corn, oats, potatoes, forage crops, truck crops and permanent pastures. Much valuable information is available for farmers at the college in the use of phosphates on the various farm crops.

"The experiment in the feeding of poultry is an effort to find a substitute for some of the commercial feeds that farmers might use. Several pens of hens are now being fed on different rations in an effort to determine how the farmer might best utilize his corn and other products for best poultry production.

"An experiment is also being conducted in the feeding of hogs and beef cattle. Here again, efforts are being made to find a feed which the farmer already has on his farm that will stimulate maximum growth at minimum cost. Hereford beef cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs are being used for these experiments.

"Another most interesting experiment is quail raising. Here students learn not only how to breed quail at little cost, but they are being taught how to develop and preserve valuable game on their farms in Georgia.

"The building construction division of the college is developing plans for inexpensive rural homes where the people on the farms can use most of the material on their farms for the construction and improvement of their homes. These plans will be made available soon for negro home owners."

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

GEORGIA

Cordele, Ga. News
May 18, 1939

OWNERSHIP AND USE OF LAN

The farming South depends o cotton and tobacco for two-thirds o its cash income. More than half o its farmers depend on cotton alone They are one-crop farmers, subject ed year after year to risks whic would appall the average business man. All their eggs are in one bas ket—a basket which can be upset and often is, by the weather, the bol weevil, or the cotton market.

The boll weevil can be conquered and weather hazards tend to cance themselves out as good seasons fol low bad; but the cotton market is a sheer gamble. On this gamble nearby 2,000,000 southern families stake their year's work and everything they own. Their only chance of making a living is tied up with the fluctuations of the world price of cotton.

No other similar area in the world gambles its welfare and the destinies of so many people on a single crop market year after year.

The gamble is not a good one. Few other crops are subject to such violent and unpredictable price variations as cotton. In 1927 cotton farmers got 20 cents a pound for their crop; in 1929 they got 16 cents; in 1931 they got 6 cents; in 1933 they got 10 cents. Only once during the last decade did the price of cotton change less than 10 percent between pickings. Three times in 5 years it jumped more than 40 percent—once up and twice down.

Because cotton is the cornerstone of the economy of many parts of the South, the merchants, manufacturers, businessmen, and bankers share the hazards of the farmer. The men who finance cotton farming charge high interest rates because their money is subject to far more than the normal commercial risk. As a result, the mortgage debt of southern farm owners has been growing steadily for the last 20 years. A check-up on 46 scattered counties in the South in 1934 showed that one-tenth of the farm land was in the hands of corporations, mostly banks and insurance companies, which had been forced to foreclose their mortgages.

This process has forced more than half of the South's farmers into the status of tenants, tilling land they do not own. Whites and Negroes have suffered alike. Of the 1,831,000 tenant families in the region, about 66 percent are whites. Approximately half of the sharecroppers are white, living under economic conditions almost identical with those of Negro sharecroppers.—Hazlehurst Cracker.

Atlanta Ga. Georgian
May 17, 1939

Talmadge Urges Negro Return To Farms

Urging negroes to return to the farm as a solution to their economic problems, former Governor Talmadge Tuesday night criticized the New Deal for creating visions of a "royal road to riches" in the agricultural population.

Talmadge was speaker at a meeting opening the fourteenth annual convention of the Georgia Funeral Directors' and Embalmers' Association. The sessions will continue through Thursday, at the Butler Street Y. M. C. A.

In his address he stated that, although the negro seemed to have been less changed than the white man by recent political influences, it would be advisable for him to go back to the farm where he could feel economically secure.

Atlanta Ga. Constitution
May 17, 1939

TALMADGE URGES NEGROES TO FARM

Addresses Georgia Colored Funeral Directors' Convention.

A back to the land movement as a solution to the economic dilemma of the negro was advocated last night by former Governor Eugene Talmadge in an address at a public meeting marking the opening of the 14th annual convention of the Georgia Colored Funeral Directors' and Embalmers' Association.

"There is no royal road to character, and it is hard work which makes a man," he said. Talmadge also flayed the New Deal, stating "the negro seems to have stood the upheaval better than the whites."

The meeting was held in Big Bethel A. M. E. church. The three-day convention will continue today at Butler Street Y. M. C. A.

W. H. Mays, of Augusta, president, and several others spoke. Special music was a feature. More than 500 attended.

Savannah, Ga., Press
May 24, 1939

CALVES PAY YOUTHS MORE THAN COTTON

HURSE REPORTS PROFIT OF $3,328 ON 100 ANIMALS

One hundred negro farm youths discovered last year that fifteen fat calves will yield more profit than 40 bales of cotton at 8 cents a pound.

Alexander Hurse, negro state club agent, with headquarters at the Georgia State College here, today reported to Director Walter S. Brown of the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, results of one season of club work with feeder calves included $3,328.97 as reimbursement to the boys for their feed and labor.

That amount came from 92 of the 100 calves with which the project began. One calf got away from home; one had bad luck and sold for less than cost; one was sold before the spring stock shows and five are being held over for 1940 exhibition.

Distributed to the negro youths in several Georgia counties, the calves at the start of the project represented an investment of $4,460.42, Hurse said. When sold, after prizes were distributed, the calves returned the investment, plus $3,328.97. The average sale price was $9.60 a hundred pounds.

In the feeding process the boys increased the weight of the calves from 59,193 pounds for 100 of them to 76,106 for the 93 sold at spring shows.

Hurse made his comparison with cotton at the Columbus show. "The firteen calves sold brought more net income than forty bales of cotton," he explained. "After figuring the cost of production (on cotton) there would be approximately $120 net income. These calves brought a net income of $10.95 each, allowing $10 for labor and $20 for feed, or more than $150."

Hurse presented the following examples of the best money makers of his group of 100: A. Cotton of Burke county whose net yield including prizes amounted to $70.34; M. Stephen of Greene, net yield $77.38; J. Jackson of Twiggs, $73.35, and H. Land of Bibb, $82.22.

Emphasizing that only one lost money, less than $8, Hurse added "the greatest profit was that of education."

ILLINOIS

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

COTTON IN CHICAGO



John Halfacre is standing besides a row of cotton plants that he cultivated in his yard at 4854 Wabash avenue. The seed brought from Helena, Ark., and planted in May, have produced large and healthy stalks with a goodly number of full grown bolls. —Photo by Murphy.

Arcadia, La. Bienville Democrat
December 29, 1938

NEGRO LEADER URGES BACK-TO-FARM MOVEMENT

In an address before negro school teachers of Bienville parish, O. W. Gray, negro farm leader at Gibsland, urged Southern negroes to remain on the farm and in agricultural pursuits, where their greatest efficiency is attained.

Gray stated that many negroes with considerable farming experience were leaving for urban centers, where the chances of obtaining a job were very slight. "They leave the farming life, which they know and in which they are well trained, to enter a city life about which they know nothing and to which they cannot adjust themselves," he stated.

As remedies for this movement, the negro farm leader declared that more vocational teaching is needed for negro students. Less theory and more practical experience would aid the negro in making a success of farming.

Farmers Benefit By Evening Classes In Mineral Springs

MONROE, La.—(SNS)—The evening classes in Mineral Springs and St. John communities were started November 7 and respectively under the direction of Mr. D. C. Mitchell, the local agricultural instructor at Mineral Springs.

A course is being offered in "Food and Feed Production for Home Use." This course is a unit in the "Live-at-Home Program' which is the main objective covering from five to seven years. In the past, courses have been offered in "Truck crop production and marketing", "Home Garden" and "Orchard Production."

The course this year was selected collectively by the farmers of both communities, worked out by the teacher of agriculture and approved with suggestions by the advisory council of both groups.

It is understood that the course will continue another year if necessary. It was decided to have ten or more meetings with the following jobs under consideration.

1. Why Food and Feed should be produced on the home farm.
2. A community tour.
3. Working out Food and Feed requirements.
4. Increasing yield of corn per acre.
5. Raising pork at a lower cost
6. Culling chickens.
7. Planting corn substitute crops
8. Summary of course.

Each member is required to decide on and make some definite step in increasing his food and feed production. So far, the members have decided on what they are going to do. Last week a tour was made of both communities and these are some of the findings.

"In the next meeting we will work out 'Food and Feed' requirement sheets to show the amount needed, on hand, shortage and surplus.

"It is felt that if this course is followed up and put into practice much will be saved on feed and feed, and a better farming program will result," the report concluded.

Hernando, Miss. Promoter
February 2, 1939

DeSOTO COUNTY NEGRO FARMERS' CONFERENCE

Five hundred Negro farmers owners, tenants and share-cropper met at B. I. Collored High Schoo Saturday, January 28th.

Chas. R. Fletcher, negro county agent, explained the purpose of the county-wide meeting. Mr. G. C. Mingee, county agent, made it very clear to the farmers of the planning and planting program for 1939 under the present program cotton acreage allotments have been established. and the way to use the excess land

The farmers organized and the organization was named DeSoto County Negro Farmers Conference The following officers were elected R. H. Boone, president; William M Booker, vice-president; Hallie O Cobb, secretary; Prof. E. Johnson, assistant secretary; S. R. Williams treasury.

Remarks were made by M. M Hubert, negro district agent, Jackson.

HALLIE O. COBB,
Secretary.

Cotton Bagging To Be Used By Panola County Ginners

Special to The Commercial Appeal

SARDIS, Miss., June 15.—Eighteen of the 25 ginners in Panola County have agreed to use cotton bagging for wrapping the 1939 cotton crop as a means of utilizing the staple surpluses, B. B. Young, president of the Mississippi Cotton Ginners' Association, announced here today. Mr. Young said seven of the gin operators, who have not been contacted, will be invited to co-operate.

Representatives of gins throughout the country were guests of the Batesville Rotary Club and Sardis Chamber of Commerce at meetings this week. They heard Mr. Young and Hugh Stone, county farm agent, explain the benefits of using cotton bagging. Enough is being manufactured this year under a Government subsidy to wrap a million bales, it was explained.

The new type of bagging is also favored by cotton producers here, replies to a questionnaire Mr. Stone sent out indicated. The county agent's first tabulation gave 312 affirmative replies to the question: "At approximately the same cost would you prefer your cotton wrapped with cotton bagging to any other?" Every reply favored the proposal, it was revealed.

Cotton bagging is seven and one-half pounds lighter per bale than jute, Mr. Stone said. Allowance for the difference in weight will be made by the buyers, he explained.

Mississippi Nets $100,000 for Year on Prison Cotton

(The Associated Press)

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 6.—The state penitentiary will return about $100,000 to the state treasury this year after completing sales of cotton and cottonseed produced on the three state farms, Superintendent James Thames estimated today.

Thames notified the governor's office that he yesterday disposed of 2074 bales at an average price of 10.11 cents for a total of $96,861. An additional $30,000 was obtained from sale of 1000 tons of seed at $30 per ton.

Sale of another 1000 tons of seed still in stock will bring total revenue for the year to $400,000, Thames said. The support fund for the penitentiary is $300,000, leaving a net of $100,000 over expenses.

Agriculture Must Be Grown Into Gradually, Especially In Livestock, Expert Warns

Too Many Jump Into Production With Ideas Of Quick Reward Without Knowing Enough About The Business, Paul F. Newell Says

Special to The Commercial Appeal

STATE COLLEGE, Miss., July 9.—"The safest method of getting into any new agricultural enterprise, especially livestock production, is to grow into it gradually rather than 'go or buy' into the business," Paul F. Newell, extension animal husbandman, said today.

"During this period of shifting in agricultural enterprises to a program of greater balance, including a broader interest in livestock, it is well for the inexperienced to counsel with those who have been financially successful with livestock over the years," he asserted. "Costly mistakes may be avoided to the advantage of both the individual and to the industry."

Home grown feeds, in terms of grass, roughage and grain available, form a suitable basis for selecting livestock enterprises, Mr. Newell explained. There is no place for a cow or calf enterprise on a farm that has no permanent pasture and where roughages for Wintering cattle are inadequate, he pointed out. Commercial hog production is a poor enterprise on farms that do not produce abundant grain crops, and feeding of steers would be out of place unless suitable roughages and concentrates were available to be marketed through cattle.

Keep Selves Informed

"Successful farmers keep themselves informed on the long-time production trends among the several species of livestock and regulate their production programs accordingly," he declared. "They try to sell surplus stock when seasona and long-time prices are high, and back for another price peak.

"If all farmers reacted to these factors in this way, cyclical trends would be largely leveled out. Many, however, act on the impulse of enthusiasm and buy at peak prices selling usually at depressed levels This is costly experience and can be avoided," Mr. Newell insisted.

"Where foundation stock is bought, the purchaser should make sure that exorbitant prices are not paid for stock of low quality. Good animals are available at reasonable prices. The South cannot afford to be a dumping ground for other areas when unloading their cull animals.

"The use of meritorious purebred sires among all species of farm livestock can hardly be overemphasized. This is better appreciated when one sees the per cent of inferior sires in use.

Many Factors Involved

"Many factors are involved in making prices farmers receive for their products. These should be studied in order to benefit from situations as they develop. A good rule is to sell a product that is standard, one that meets the wants of the buying public, and other is to sell this product, conditions permitting, when supplies on the market are not at the maximum. Too often, the year's supply of available livestock is marketed over a period of a few months when there is a year round consumer demand for the product or products. Marketing is too often done when market supplies are greatest from other producing areas," he explained.

"The great need now is to increase and improve pastures and feed supplies. We can over produce certain classes of stock proportionally to our grass and feed supply, but the likelihood of over emphasizing grass production is remote. A sound standard by which to measure the value of grazing lands is the number of pounds of beef, lamb or milk they will produce per acre rather than how many animal units an acre will carry. Productive capacity rather than carrying capacity should be the goal. It should be the aim to have so much grass that it must be mowed occasionally and saved as hay, rather than grazed to full capacity. Overgrazing with resultant low productions is a general imstake made by livestock producers.

"More Winter feed should be stored to adequately feed our present livestock population. The annual income from livestock in Mississippi could be increased probably by 50 to 75 per cent if optimum pasture and feed supplies were grown. It is funadmental that we start here if we improve the livestock industry."

Domestic Spot Cotton Prices Hit Peak

WASHINGTON, July 9.—A combination of factors has raised domestic prices of spot cotton to the highest figures since August, 1937, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported yesterday.

Factors include, the report said, exceptionally small stocks of "free" American cotton, relatively high domestic and foreign mill consumption, improved domestic sales of cotton textiles, somewhat unfavorable weather conditions and increased prospects for an export subsidy.

"Despite the largest total domestic stocks on record, the quantity of 'free' American cotton on hand in the United States is now 50 to 60 per cent smaller than at this time last year," the report explained. "Foreign stocks of American cotton are much smaller than last year, and United States exports are running much below foreign consumption."

Domestic Consumption Gains

Domestic cotton consumption in May was 40 per cent larger than a year earlier and the second largest in 10 years, the bureau found. Trade reports indicated that during the first half of June consumption was well maintained. Foreign cotton mill activity was well maintained in May and early June.

"It is now expected," the bureau said, "world consumption of American cotton for the year ending July 31 will approximate 11,250,000 bales, compared with a little less than 10,900,000 bales during the preceding 12 months.

"The estimated consumption, when deducted from the estimated supply for the 1938-39 season, indicates a world carryover of, roughly, 14,250,000 bales. This figure is about 500,000 bales larger than the previous record high carryover as of Aug. 1, 1938," the bureau said.

Mississippi County Hog Production Increases

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., July 9.—When King Cotton began relinquishing his throne in Mississippi County six years ago, through the AAA program and the Plant To Prosper Competition, he evidently named hogs as his first successor, judging by the number and quality of the animals now being produced here.

There were about 18,000 hogs in the county in 1933, and now estimates increase this number to about 45,000. The primary cause of this is that farmers realized hogs could best use up the corn being planted on some of the land formerly used for cotton. Prior to the time the Government farm program was inaugurated, only about 15 per cent of the county's crop land was in corn while under the AAA programs the amount planted for home consumption needs is about 35 per cent.

Quality Better

The quality of hogs has increased as evidenced by the increases both in registered males and females. Six years ago not more than 12 farmers kept registered hogs on their farms while now records show almost 200 farmers, 4-H Club members and Future Farmer members with registered animals.

Loans to club and Future Farmer members for purchase of registered hogs, made by the Blytheville Chamber of Commerce and the Production Credit Association, have assisted extension workers and agriculture teachers in forwarding this program. The Mississippi County Fair has also played a major role in the hog improvement program.

At least four hog raisers, who were not satisfied with just registered hogs after becoming interested in this business, obtained males from outstanding herds. R. E. Jones of New Liberty purchased "Golden Dictator," a Poland China, sired by a national champion boar whose sire and grandsire were all national champions. The dam was a national champion gilt.

Purchase Prize Winners

Stanton Pepper of Huffman, recently purchased "Arkansas Wave-Gold," a Duroc Jersey, sired by 1100-pound "Lauxmonts Wave-Gold," who was 1938 grand champion.

Bruce Culp of Leachville, winner in the Plant to Prosper contest, continued his live-at-home program when he purchased "Delta Cherry King" from the Orion Cherry King line, outstanding show ring prize winners for the past 20 years.

J. M. Stevens of Dell purchased the 1938 MidSouth Fair champion Poland China male.

Methods of raising and feeding hogs have also improved considerably. Prior to 1933, the small number of hogs were kept in the barn lot practically all the year except during the Fall when they were turned on the fields. Now they are kept on permanent and temporary pastures nearly all the time. More than 200 "A" type houses have been built which not only make for sanitation but increase the number of pigs saved in farrowing.

Five-Acre Truck Patch Shows Neat Profit

A five-acre truck patch on the Holmes Avenue farm of Bruce York, 1639 Monroe, started as a hobby last year, is turning out to be one of the most profitable projects he ever started, Mr. York said yesterday.

"I started this truck patch just for the fun of it, never realizing I would make much money on it," Mr. York said, "but it has turned out to be a valuable investment."

Mr. York is especially proud of his 1½-acre tomato patch, from which he already has harvested 580 bushels of grade A tomatoes for a net income of $1305. These tomatoes have been sold on the local market at prices ranging from $5.75 to $1.75 per bushel. The average has been $2.25 a bushel.

Other money making projects on the York farm are a herd of 30 registered hogs, 13 registered Jersey cows, three acres of strawberries and four acres of sweet potatoes. Jim Winn, for 16 years a leading truck grower in Gibson County, Tenn., is manager of the farm.

Tennessee Farmers Increasing Soil Conservation Work

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., July 9. — Tennessee farmers are increasing the use of lime, basic slag and triple superphosphate for soil conservation under provisions of the 1939 AAA program, F. W. Colby, state administration officer, said today.

Farmers co-operating in the program have already ordered 3000 more tons of triple superphosphate than was used in 1938, he said. With June orders not all in at the state office, 14,181 tons have been ordered. Last year farmers received 11,073 tons in lieu of soil building and other benefit payments under AAA provisions.

Basic slag orders topped 51,000 tons early in June, and AAA lime orders reached 4161 tons at the same time.

These orders, Mr. Colby said, demonstrate farmers co-operating in the AAA program are growing more concerned over land use programs and particularly as to the importance of building and conserving their croplands.

Franklin Farmers Show Profit On Poultry

CASS, Ark., July 9.—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Whittington, Franklin County farmers, made a profit of $106.35 on poultry in less than five months, Miss Velma Alford, home demonstration agent, said today.

The Whittingtons purchased 100 White Leghorn chicks that began heavy production in November. Much of the feed was homegrown, but a well-balanced ration was used, mixed according to recommendations of the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture. The poultry house and dropping boards were kept clean, and systematic culling was practiced.

Fifty-five hens and seven roosters were sold for $53.35, and during the five months a profit of $53 was made on eggs above the cost of the chicks and feed.

Mr. and Mrs. Whittington are living at home, and keep an ample supply of poultry and poultry products for their family needs.

The Whittingtons have always rented, but they are now buying a farm. Profits from poultry are contributing much toward their farm ownership fund.

Sheep Production Is Paying Big Dividends

BENTONVILLE, Ark., July 9.—The proverbial saying that sheep will pay 100 per cent dividends on the investment each year has held true, with some to spare, on a small registered ewe demonstration conducted by R. W. Davis, Benton County farmer, according to County Agent P. R. Corley.

In December, 1938, Mr. Davis purchased two registered Shropshire yearling ewes as the basis for a large flock. He paid $25 for them.

In March, one of the ewes lambed triplets, and in April the other lambed a single. Mr. Davis has been offered $50 for one of the buck lambs, which offsets his original investment and still leaves him the other three lambs and two ewes.

Hungry Farmers Tighten Belts As Relief Food Is Delayed

Special to The Commercial Appeal

OXFORD, Miss., Dec. 12.—Lafayette County residents left destitute by flood and drouth took another notch in their belts today as they returned home empty handed after failing to obtain food supplies which they understood would be distributed by the Federal Surplus Commodity Corporation.

Told previously by welfare officials that food would be given out today at voting precincts over the county, thousands were disappointed when supplies did not arrive. County officials said the situation was desperate.

Part of Northeast Mississippi area where Spring floods ruined planting and subsequent drouth killed what had grown, Lafayette County failed in the production of food and cash crops. Older farmers said, "We have never seen anything like it."

When the first survey of the situation was made in the early Fall, 3000 farm families were listed as needing aid. After checking and rechecking, 2000 families remained on the list, these being classified as the ones who had suffered the greatest losses.

None of them is on WPA or entitled to receive commodities from the County Welfare office. Farmers have been killing their livestock and hogs to obtain food and because they have no feed for the animals.

Increase In Order Cause Of Delay

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 12.—Distribution of commodities to destitute farmers was not made today in Lafayette County due to delay in arrival of the foodstuffs, J. R. Gilfoy, head of the Surplus Commodity Division, said here tonight.

"The distribution will be made just as soon as the commodities are received," Mr. Gilfoy said. "We had fixed today for distribution as supplies are usually received in time for distribution between the tenth and twelfth of the month. The increased orders apparently caused the delay."

He said 150 to 200 carloads of commodities were to be distributed during the month.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

NORTH CAROLINA

Gatesville, N. C., Index
April 12, 1939

Negro Farm News

By HOWARD L. MITCHELL

PLAN FOR THE COTTON CROP

For many years the farmers in Gates County have considered cotton one of the most important crops. It was praised because of the large amount of cash that it made possible for the purse, but in recent years the story has changed. This is largely due to the low prices, and partially due to the lack of scientific study given to the growing of this crop. For instance we may notice the crop of 1938. The farmers who complained most were those who planted large acreage, and received a very small yield. This does not mean altogether that cotton is a bad crop; it may mean that this farmer gave cotton a poor chance. To get better results it may be wise to practice the following suggestions:

1. The best possible seed should be selected. Coker 100 has been very satisfactory in Gates County.

2. Treat the seed with 2% Ceresan. This will permit earlier planting, insure a better stand, prevent the plants from dying and give them a better start. All of this will help to make a larger yield.

3. Plant early. This will help to get the fruit ahead of the boll-weevil.

4. Put a plenty of seed on the land.

5. Use a good fertilizer when planting.

Those who want seed treated are asked to bring them to the following places: Monday ,April 17, Gates Training School, Sunbury, 1:00 to 5:00 o'clock p. m.; Tuesday, April 18, Reid's Grove School, Gatesville, 10:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.

Where groups of farmers would like to have seed treated at other places they may have it done by notifying the Negro County Agent.

This is 4-H Boys and Girls "Fix-It-Week"

The week of April 10-15 is 4-H Boys' and Girls' "Fix-it-Week". During this week each 4-H club boy and girl in the county is expected to fix something in the home or on the farm and keep a report of it so that it may be presented when called for. Something worthwhile should be done, which will add pride and happiness to the home and club member.

County Council to Meet Saturday

The Gates County 4-H club county council is to hold its second meeting for the year at the Reid's Grove School on Saturday, April 15, at 1:00 o'clock. All officers of 4-H clubs are expected to be present. Other club members are invited. The club leaders will attend this meeting, and give some facts learned in the Leaders School here on Tuesday, April 11. Aaron Parker, the newly elected president of the Council will preside over the meeting. Other officers who will assist are Miss Janie Norman of Sunbury, Miss Georgie M. Sumner of Gates, Miss Delesta Griffin of Corapeake and James Walter Matthews of Gatesville.

Concord N C Tribune
May 9, 1939

TRAINING NEGRO FARMERS.

About one-half of the million Negroes in North Carolina depend directly on agriculture for a living, and it is urgent that they receive more training for their vocation, for the success of the other 500,000 Negroes who are engaged in vocations and professions other than agriculture is affected by the success or failure of the farmers of the Negro race.

We could well say that much can be accomplished in having better homes, better health, better business, better schools, better churches, and better recreation by having better farms. As an example of how the extension program can help the Negro farmers of a county, we cite the record of one young trained Negro agricultural worker of the Extension Service in a North Carolina county from December 5, 1935, to January 1, 1939. He was successful in placing 16 pure-bred bulls, 28 pure-bred cows, 13 good grade cows, eight pure-bred heifers, 11 good grade heifers, 42 pure-bred boars, 61 pure-bred gilts, 19 good grade gilts, 26,051 pure-bred day-old chickens, and 92 settings of tested eggs for hens.

He also stimulated the building of 11 hog houses, 28 self-feeders for swine, six bull pens, 57 modern laying houses, and 32 modern brooder houses. He helped renovate nine other laying houses, and placed 17 pressure canners.

One can hardly estimate accurately the value of such service.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
May 11, 1939

Training Negro Farmers

One-half of the one million negroes in North Carolina are directly dependent upon farming for a livelihood. It is, then, vitally important to the citizenry of the entire state that these workers be better educated and better trained, for their own sakes; and because their success or failure affects society as a whole.

North Carolina negro farmers have made notable advances in recent years. But much remains to be accomplished. Negro farm families need better homes, churches, schools and recreation facilities, just as they need to continue with improved methods in agriculture.

In this connection the state's agricultural extension program is bearing good fruits. The Concord Tribune cites the record of one young negro worker of the extension service, in a single county of the state, as illustrative of what can and is being done.

The Tribune relates that this worker, within the period from December 5, 1935, to January 1, 1939, was successful in placing 16-pure-bred bulls, 23 pure-bred cows, 13 good grade cows, eight pure-berd heifers, 42 pure-bred boars, 61 pure-bred gilts, 19 good grade gilts, 26,051 pure-bred day-old chickens and 92 sittings of tested hen eggs.

In addition to this he stimulated the building of 11 hog houses, 28 self-feeders for swine, six bull pens, 57 modern laying houses, and 32 modern brooder houses. He assisted in the renovation of nine other laying houses, and placed 17 pressure canners.

The value of such service can hardly be over-estimated.

Funeral

24 NEGRO FAMILIES ON N. C. PROJECT

83-Acre Farm Bought for $160 a Year, Over 40 Year Period

Twenty-four Negro families are harvesting crops, this fall on the North Carolina Farm Tenant Security project of the Farm Security Administration, in eastern North Carolina. Tobacco, principal cash crop, cut in August and fluecured, is already on the market.

The farms on which these families together with 62 white families, are living, were bought outright by the federal government and will be resold to the families now located on them, as soon as they have proved themselves capable of farm ownership. Some of the families accepted as tenants already lived on desirable land, and in many cases these farms were bought by the government, enabling the renter to come into the project without moving.

Unlike the projects at southeast Missouri or Lakeview, Ark., the North Carolina Farm Tenant Security is of the infiltration type, consisting of scattered farms in well-established farming communities, spread over more than 7,000 acres of seleced farm land in seven counties.

Although set up, for the most part, on separate tracts, all farms on the project are operated under a common management, each farmer working on a trial basis to prove his ownership ability.

83 Acre Farm

On qualifying for ownership, the client begins to buy his farm on terms which approximate the usual rentals on tenant farms. An 83-acre farm costing $3,7000 can be bought for $160 a year, over a period of 40 years, at three per cent interest.

The tracts vary in size, but are all large enough to produce, if properly handled, an income that will enable these tenants to live decently and healthfully, according to American standards, while buying their farmsteads.

As on all Farm Security projects, farming programs include plans for crop rotation, erosion control, subsistence gardens, and the raising of ample livestock. More than one cash crop is always raised, a practice which lessens the chances of loss from climatic conditions or low markets.

Good houses, barns and outbuildings are on each farm. Where families have come in without sufficient livestock, farm equipment or household necessities, short term loans have been made to them to supply these deficiencies.

All land bought for the projects is carefully checked for soil type and production records. Only land on which the average yield per acre is satisfactory is purchased.

This care in purchasing means that families previously living in poverty on worn-out land are assured of a fair chance for success on the government project—and the government's funds are safeguarded.

Pate Family

The farm home of the Walter Pate family, is typical of other farms on the North Carolina project. Pate, who is 40 years old, moved on his 77-acre project farm in 1938. All his life he had been sharecropping around the neighboring country, accumulating what he could—two cows, a heifer, some hogs, a few chickens and a few household furnishings.

The Pate family moved into a house costing $1,300, with a smokehouse and poultry house costing $100 each, a $450 stock barn and $350 barn. The prospective owner was loaned $620 for stock, fencing, farm equipment, seed, fertilizer and subsistence for his family of 11.

He bought the farm stuff himself and got good bargains. Rental arrangements are 25 per cent of cash crops with an additional $15 for pasture. The whole payment must be not less than $160.

This farmer has 40 acres under cultivation and is doing well. The Pates are typical of the progress being made by these families, many of whom are already beginning to buy their places.

The scattered locations of these infiltration project farms, among neighboring farms on similar soil, operated under the same general conditions as to climate and market, make them especially useful demonstrations of the Farm Security Administration's program for helping the nation's farmers.

Wilson, N. C., Daily Times
September 29, 1939

NEGRO BUSINESS MEN FOR CONTROL

Plan Series of Meetings Led By Negro County Agent C. L. Spellman; Speaking Bureau Is Set Up Here; To Start Monday.

A group of Negro business men yesterday manifested their interest in the present tobacco emergency and offered their services to C. L. Spellman, Negro County Agent in any movement to cooperate with the extension service and the Federal Government in working with the farmers for the control of the 1940 bright leaf tobacco crop. Each of the business men indicated that he favored the plan for control as outlined and expressed the hope that the farmers would vote for control on October 5th.

At the suggestion of the Negro County Agent, the following men offered their services as speakers to talk to farm groups in the various sections of the county during the remaining days before voting time: Dr. J. F. Cowan, Rev. R. A. G. Foster, Dr. W. H. Phillips, S. H. Vick, Jr., Dr. G. K. Butterfield, Dr. W. H. Atkinson, W. H. Bethel, Wm. Edmonds, C. L. Darden, Dr. B. O. Barnes.

The group plans an intensive day and night campaign of meetings Monday through Wednesday, night and day until most of the sections have been reached. The campaign will be opened by C. L. Spellman, county in an address Sunday afternoon at six o'clock. The schedule of the various farmers meetings will be announced at this time. All Negro farmers are asked to hear this speech and attend the nearerst farmers' meeting as anounced.

Relief Crisis Sweeps Poor Tenant Farmers in South

North Carolina C. P. Demands Special Session of The State Legislature and Gov't Aid to Relieve Plight of Thousands

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WILSON, N. C., Dec. 12.—Crop control, low prices for tobacco and reduction of the WPA rolls, has brought about a serious relief crisis in the agricultural regions of North Carolina. Thousands of tenant farmers are being forced off the land by acreage reduction. Small farmers face the loss of their farms as the prices received for tobacco this year will not enable them to meet their obligations to banks and supply houses.

Monroe G. Fulghum, County Welfare head at Wilson in a report to the County Commissioners stated: "People continue to come into my office with nothing to live on, and we can't do anything about it. You all know what we got for tobacco this year. That's part of the problem. And then there is little work for those out of jobs. There may be a job here or there for a day but the 50 or 75 cents that such jobs bring means nothing in the long run to a man with a big family."

County Commissioner Walter Wilson, estimated that 15 per cent of Wilson's tenants would be cut off the land in 1940 because of crop control. Mercer also blamed reduction of the WPA rolls for the present relief crisis. The thousands of tobacco farmers being driven from the land are faced with actual starvation as direct relief in North Carolina is almost non-existent and there is no possibility at the present time of WPA jobs.

The North Carolina State Committee of the Communist Party has demanded that the present relief crisis be met by the calling of a special session of the State Legislature and that immediate relief be provided by the Federal government.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

OKLAHOMA

"OKLAHOMA — A Farmer's Paradise"

By Lena Brown Worl

President B. F. Hubert of Georgia State college, has well said that the man who owns the land is the man of power. A few years ago the U. S. Department of Agriculture published a pamphlet, "Soil," which gave a most impressive picture of the importance of the soil. It was a masterpiece; it brought home in a most forceful manner the fact that regardless of whatever else we might leave to posterity that if we fail to leave soil to feed and clothe posterity, we shall have done little.

When the members of the various Indian tribes allotted their lands in severalty, many Negroes were given many valuable acres of rich soil in Oklahoma. Too, there were many Negroes who obtained land in the openings for settlement of the various lands in Oklahoma. Many of those Negroes became extremely wealthy when black gold spouted from their lands, but that is another and extremely interesting story.

There are some Negroes that even oil with its wealth could not prevent being farmers. Among them most notably is George Winton Davis of Boynton and Muskogee. This winter Mr. Davis, who raises and breeds Aberdeen-Angus cattle, showed at the stock shows in Fort Worth and Oklahoma City. After the two said shows he sold cattle that brought him over a total of $2,000. Forrest Anderson's oil millions haven't prevented his raising prize corn either. There are other farmers who are a credit to Oklahoma as well as to the Negro race. To mention a few: P. L. Anderson of Boley, who has won national recognition as a farmer; J. A. Rouce, Sr., the wheat farmer of Blaine county, whose youngest son, Booker, is following in his Dad's footsteps; George Woods, the cotton farmer of Idabel; Mr. Reynolds, the sweet potato king of Haskell, whose beautiful brick home sits on the highway between Muskogee and Tulsa, a monument to thrift and industry; Rev. Thomas of Summitt; Mr. Britton and Mr. Goo[illegible]en of Luther; Mr. Woods of Logan county; Mr. Ed Abram of Milo, who raises cattle; and Vonder Pleasant, who raises Herefords down in the old home county of Atoka; and on and on.

Rarely do you see a young man in college in Oklahoma who plans to farm. There are plenty who study agriculture, but for the most part they hope to be farm demonstration agents or vocational agriculture teachers. Everybody in Oklahoma can't teach. That's out of the question.

Farming has many advantages over teaching anyway. Farmers don't get fired, and that's something. Farmers aren't afraid to try out new ideas, and I have known teachers who got canned for nothing more than that. A farmer's and cattleman's life is a healthy one. He has activity, fresh air and sunshine and the great outdoors. Too, being one's own boss offers a freedom that is good for the soul that too few of us Negroes know.

Oklahoma is so located that almost anything can be grown here. In the southern part of the state cotton thrives as if it were Texas; in the northern and western part, wheat grows in abundance. Of course, Broken Bow has broken out with another cash crop—tomatoes. Potatoes—both kinds—berries, all kinds, melons, broom corn, popcorn, corn and hogs, alfalfa, pecans and fruit and cattle can be raised with profit. Although some of the soil has been abused, much of it is virgin. I recommend farming in Oklahoma to any young Negro who is looking for a full-time job that will bring returns in health, happiness and prosperity in proportion as he will apply himself.

Columbia, S. C. State
February 16, 1939

Noted Farmer Will Speak Here Today

Oscar Johnston, extensive cotton farmer of Mississippi, will speak at the Township auditorium here at 11:30 this morning on the current movement to find increased uses for cotton. He is one of the world's largest cotton planters.

The address, expected to attrac cotton farmers from over the state is being sponsored by the ginners seed crushers, warehousemen, merchants, South Carolina Farm Council Grange and the Cotton Co-operatives.

Mr. Johnston who plants and farms with the aid of Negro hands and mules, 50,000 acres of land in cotton corn, small grain, hay, etc., is a forceful speaker.

J. K. Breedin said of him yesterday "To those of us who plant cottor Mr. Johnston's great ability as a speaker and his clarity and convincing power with figures are almost lost sight of in our admiration of his achievements as a dirt farmer. Six hundred and fifty pounds of lint per acre on thousands of acres—that's real farming."

Serving on the committee arranging the mass meeting are: W. S. Glenn, Spartanburg; C. C. McAliley, Chester; L. M. Lawson, Darlington; W. M. Agnew, Donalds; J. Wade Drake, Anderson; T. N. Durst, Columbia; H. Gordon Kenna, Columbia; Wyndham Manning, Sumter; J. R. Lindsay, Greenville; George DeLoach, Columbia; D. M. Lipscomb, Columbia; J. C. Miller Jefferson; J. B. Caldwell, Spartanburg; C. FritzSimons, Jr., Columbia; W. T. Mikell, Columbia; J. M. Lyles, Winnsboro; James B. Murphy, Columbia; J. K. Breedin Manning, and J. H. Jones, Westminster.

O. S. Hillman, president of the Columbia Merchants' association, urges all members of the association and others to avail themselves of this opportunity to hear Mr. Johnston.

Columbia, S. C. State
February 26, 1939

Negro Farmers Form Richland Advisory Board

Thirty-two Negro farmers and farm women met in the Masonic temple, 1125 1-2 Washington street, yesterday afternoon and organized a county advisory board. The purpose of the organization is to assist the farm and home agents in carrying out their agricultural extension program of work.

The meeting was called by J. E. Dickson, county agricultural agent for Negro farmers of Richland county, and Frances E. Thomas, Richland Negro home agent.

Marion B. Paul, state Negro home supervising agent; Frances E. Thomas and J. E. Dickson spoke briefly to the farmers on the purpose of the meeting. They also pointed the many ways by which the farmers can help themselves and put over a successful farm program if they would only carry out the teachings and practices as outlined by the extension agents.

The officers and members of the advisory board are as follows: S. J. Dunlap, president; Hattie Davis, vice president; A. L. Broom, secretary; J. W. Friday, assistant secretary; Eliza Anderson, treasurer; Mary Parris Richardson, reporter.

Members are: Lucile Reaves, Edna Kirkland, Lula Broom, Willie Mar Kirkland, Alethia Lykes, Hattie Pearl Eleazer, Sallie Lorick, Jessie Nellums, Estelle Clark, Susanna Graham, Minnie Lowman, Eliza Wilson, Della Richardson, Benxena Howell, Julia Gray, Cora H. Cooke, I. J. Alston, S. E. Able, Robert E. Taylor, T. B. Mills, W. H. Harris, C. E. Frazier, James Gray, Berkley Reynolds, John Adams and John Buff.

The next meeting of the advisory board will be held in Agent Dickson's office, 1125 1-2 Washington street, at 1 p. m., March 11.

Colombia, S. C. State
August 21, 1939

FROM TENANT TO FARM OWNER.

While a benevolent government canvasses ways and means of aiding with public funds tenant farmers toward becoming farm owners, the Yorkville Enquirer tells how one of its Negro subscribers, 30 years a subscriber, transformed himself from tenant to farm owner with no such assistance. John A. Roseboro of the Blairsville community "has long been a successful farmer. He worked on the farm of the late Andrew Hafner for 17 years, and he was a model for all the colored farmers round about. He bought something over 130 acres of land in 1904 and, still working for Mr. Hafner, he managed to pay for the land purchased and moved on to his own land in 1906. All along he has made it a practice to 'live at home.' He bought little from the stores that he could have made at home, and other than his fertilizers each year, he had little expense in his farm operation. . . . He has usually had something to sell other than cotton, and with this extra money he paid many of his living expenses. . . . John says that almost anyone can make a living on a farm, provided he will work, diversify his crops and be careful of his expenditures. . . . He was one of the first persons in his section to own an automobile, having purchased his first car in 1917."

Winnsboro, S. C. News & Herald
August 25, 1939

From Tenant To Farm Owner

(The State)

While a benevolent government canvasses ways and means of aiding with public funds tenant farmers toward becoming farm owners, the Yorkville Enquirer tells how one of its Negro subscribers, 30 years a subscriber, transformed himself from tenant to farm owner with no such assistance. John A. Roseboro of the Blairsville community "has long been a successful farmer. He worked on the farm of the late Andrew Hafner for 17 years and he was a model for all the colored farmers round about. He bought something over 130 acres of land in 1904 and, still working for Mr. Hafner, he managed to pay for the land purchased and moved on to his own land in 1906. All along he has made it a practice to 'live at home.' He bought little from the stores that he could have made at home, and other than his fertilizers each year, he had little expense in his farm operation . . . He has usually had something to sell other than cotton, and with this extra money he paid many of his living expenses . . . John says that almost anyone can make a living on a farm, provided he will work, diversify his crops and be careful of his expenditures . . . He was one of the first persons in his section to own an automobile, having purchased his first car in 1917."

South Carolina Governor Would Protect Farmers

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va
11-11-39

Seeks To Insure Fair Prices For Land For Power Proiect

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—Governor Burnett R. Maybank of South Carolina has taken up with Dr. Clark Foreman of the PWA at Washington the matter of land acquisition by the government for the Santee Cooper Project. The Governor said he is not entirely satisfied with the way it has been handled.

Since 95 per cent of the land owners in the Santee Cooper basin are Negroes the Governor's action in their behalf is being widely commended. He said last Saturday:

"I talked with Dr. Foreman by telephone in Washington today and asked him to confer with Mr. Pearce and Mr. Cooper (chairman and general manager of the Authority) on the land acquisition question, in order that the people might get a just, fair and equitable price for their land and at the same time not make it too burdensome for the Government in the purchase of the land. I am asking that this study be made not in a spirit of criticism but in behalf of all concerned."

LAND OWNED BY NEGRO FARMERS

The Santee Cooper project is a twenty-million dollar power and canal project in lower South Carolina. The land to be inundated is now owned by some four hundred Negro farmers; the plan calls for the purchase of their land and the re-settlement and transfer of their families to like acreage with newly built homes greatly improved as to workmanship and facilities. This rehabilitation of these Negro land owners is to be with their consent.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
CONDITION OF

TENNESSEE

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
February 26, 1939

NEGRO TENANT RATIONS

Farm Workers Eat More When Landlord Supplies Food

The usual rations the "furnishing" men allow a negro tenant on a Mississippi plantation are a peck of corn meal, three pounds of salt meat, two pounds of sugar, one pound of coffee, one gallon of black molasses, and one plug of chewing tobacco. This collection is supposed to last him all week, but unless an eye is kept on him he will eat it all before Saturday.

On the other hand, if he is working for wages and "eating himself," he can live a surprisingly long time on three soda crackers, a can of sardines and a nickel's worth of cheese.

Pulaski, Tenn. Citizen
May 10, 1939

Negro Farmers

All negro farmers of Middle Tennessee will meet at the U. S. Experiment Station, Columbia, on Saturday, May 20, 1939. This meeting was well attended last year by the farmers of Giles County, but the leaders, in their meeting Monday night, May 8, stated that there will be a much greater number going from their respective communities this year than ever before. The Agents are urging the people to get a real early start so we may be there for the opening exercise. The meeting starts at 9 A. M. This means that we should be leaving Pulaski no later than 7:30.

The Agents are hoping to go from Pulaski in a group. The people of Round Hill and Lynnville will join the line at Waco. It is very urgent that all cars and buses from other parts of the county meet at Dr. W. A. Lewis' store at 7:30. The group will leave from there.

Dyersburg, Tenn. Gazette
June 7, 1939

NEGRO CURB MARKET

Negroes will open their N. F. H. curb market Saturday morning, June 10, as was announced by the county agriculture teacher, H. C. Hardy, last night. There will be on market all kinds of fresh vegetables, eggs, milk, butter, molasses, chickens and a variety of home grown meats. The market members boast of one of the greatest garden prospects in their garden history. The market is located on Central Street, and will appreciate your patronage.

Leaders of the market are: W. L. Gauldin, E. Walker, Henry Hardy, I. Robinson and J. Johnson.

Editorial of the Day

COTTON HIGHWAYS

(From The Houston Post.)

You've heard of Tobacco Road, but what about a cotton highway? Dallas county is building a cotton-reinforced road as an experiment, and if it comes up to expectations a new major outlet for Texas cotton may result.

The material is prepared in the form of six-foot strips of heavy textiles. It is laid like a carpet and nailed to a rolled base of asphalt and gravel. Another layer of asphalt is poured over the cotton and then covered with gravel and rolled again, according to the "inverted topping" method.

This cotton batting is supposed to serve much the same purpose as does the wire screening or lath in a plaster or concrete house, holding the asphalt together and keeping the shoulders from cracking. Engineers of other states have estimated that the cotton reinforcement will make the road last three or four times as long as it would without the treatment. It takes seven bales to the mile, and makes the road cost from $500 to $700 per mile extra. 8-1-39

Mississippi and North Carolina have tried this plan and found it successful thus far, although of course more time is necessary to determine accurately its efficacy. Road builders will watch the Dallas county experiment with keen interest, and if it extends the life of the road as much as is promised, a new market for surplus American cotton will be created and at the same time the ultimate cost of highway construction should be reduced materially.

The Texas legislature recently appropriated $10,000 to be awarded to anyone who conceives a new use for cotton whereby 100,000 bales are consumed. Myriad plans have been proposed by seekers of the prize from all over the United States. The road reinforcement plan should be offered in the competition, if it hasn't already been offered. At seven bales to the mile it would require only about 14,286 miles of road to consume 100,000 bales.

Home on the Farm

MORE revealing figures on home ownership on the farm in Virginia have been made publi by Dr. W. E. Garrett of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. They show that half of the white and three fourths of the Negro farm families live in houses of $1,000 valu or less; taking the two races together, almost every third family occupies a house worth not more than $500.

The high type of citizenship which struggling farmers exemplify in husbanding their occupation and preserving family life has never been fully appreciated. While a large per cent of farm families has deserted the farm for urban communities, those who remain are imbued with a love for the soil which no hardships or reverses can completely destroy.

We can not expect them, however, to remain loyal to the soil with the tenacity and faith of their ancestors until a better way is found to increase their profits, revive their home life, and improve their health and educational status. Better housing is as much an immediate problem for farm communities as it is for metropolitan areas. Rural civilization is not a thing apart from urban life. The two are co-related.

Poor white and Negro farmers face many disadvantages. The years of devotion they have given to the soil have not been proportionately remunerative. They have reached the crossroads where rehabilitation loans for crops and the home, in addition to the farm extension aid being provided by the government, must be distributed without discrimination if their morale is to remain high.

Virginia's farm families, white and colored, are not begging for relief or charity; they are able to harvest their own security from the soil, providing the State joins with federal and private agencies to provide them with the necessary sinews to bring it to pass.

Negro Farmers of Virginia Face Their Problems

By J. B. PIERCE
Field Agent, Extension Work,
U. S. Department of Agriculture

SOMETHING to eat, something to wear, somewhere to stay, and the education of his children, are the most outstanding problems of the Negro farmer in the South. Extension Service, through its workers, has always emphasized the live-at-home program for the Negro farmer and assisted him in meeting his needs. Work for the whole family, parents and children, is included in this program.

In recent years, many new government agencies have come into the picture to help farm people solve their problems, and the Negro farmer is taking an active part in these agencies.

I quote from Assistant Director Reuben Brigham's address, "We Go Forward," which was delivered at two southern regional extension conferences. "I think that, as extension workers, we should consider our situation in a straightforward realistic manner. The time has arrived when we should seriously and vigorously devote our energies and best thought to building for the longer future.

EFFECTIVE COORDINATION

"In doing this, our immediate concern is effective coordination. We must have a coordinated program to work toward. A vehicle which insures better coordination and brings farmer thinking to bear upon local, state, and national problems has been provided in the land use planning activity." Better land use put into practice will go a long way toward making it possible for the Negro farm family to supply its essential needs. The outlook for this attainment in a larger measure in the future is most promising."

Through 4-H Club work, rural youth have a chance to acquire the fundamental principles of citizenship. The club members, with the assistance of the extension agents and local leaders, study the needs of their families and communities and plan activities that will help to supply some of these needs. Each year there is a steady growth noted in the enrollment of Negro boys and girls in 4-H Clubs, and their completion of work is also kept at a high level.

In the 37 counties having Negro extension workers in Virginia, the farmers are organized into community clubs, county advisory boards, and a state advisory board. They conduct every year a community improvement program, awarding prizes for the following achievements by the farm families.

Own your farm; join your community club; be self-supporting; paint your home; have a sanitary toilet; and place your boys and girls in 4-H Club work. These farm organizations offer prizes to the 10 communities that make the largest number of improvements annually.

IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In 1937, 70 communities in 37 Virginia counties entered the improvement program. In these 70 communities, there were 2,682 families. Of this number, 2,002 owned their farms, and 34 of those farms were bought that year. Of these farm families, 1,663 are members of their community clubs, 231 of them having joined that year. Of the 2,682 families, 2,551 were self-supporting, and 92 were taken off relief during the year.

Seven hundred and sixty-eight of the homes are painted, 109 having been painted during the year.

Homes having sanitary toilets totaled 1,662, and 380 of these sanitary toilets were built during the year.

Of the 3,435 boys and girls of 4-H Club age, 2,004 were members of the 4-H Clubs; 1,937 completed their 4-H Club projects; and 3,143 attended school.

A complete record is kept of each family in the 70 organized communities taking part in the improvement work for the year. Such a record aids the community club in planning its program of work to meet the real needs of the farm families. This kind of community improvement work has been carried on by the farmers themselves under the guidance of the Extension Service, since 1926.

TYPICAL OF PROGRAM

Every organized community in the counties having Negro extension workers is invited to take part in this special community improvement work, and each year the number of communities taking part increases.

The above examples of accomplishments bearing upon the regional problems of the Negro farmer in the South are typical of the extension program that is helping him to solve his problems.

Negro Farmers Voting in Arkansas



(U. S. D. A. Photo by Lee)

In the recent cotton marketing quota referendum conducted by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, thousands of Negro farmers in the South voted 'yes' or 'no'.

The picture above was taken in a voting place near Helena in Phillips County, Arkansas.

Tabulations of the cotton quota show that in those counties in all the Southern states where the Negro farm population is heaviest, the vote for crop control was in excess of 90%.

Some sample tabulations show that in Bolivar County, Mississippi, where there are 10,309 Negro farmers and 1959 white farmers the vote was 8,179 in favor of quotas and 17 against. In Macon County, Alabama, there are 3262 Negro and 738 white farmers. The vote showed 2764 in favor and 5 against the quotas.

The referendum on flue cured tobacco was lost. The percentage of Negro tobacco growers is very small compared to the percentage of Negro cotton producers.

Director of Agricultural Adjustment Administration Praises Southern Farmers

Pays Deserving Tribute to Attitude of Black Men Toward New Deal Program

White and Negro Laborer Brought Closer Together

ST. LOUIS.—(ANP)—Praise for Negro farmers of the South and a frank discussion of the causes and some proposed remedies for low income of Southern agriculture were high spots of an address delivered here Sunday by Dr. I. W. Duggan, director, Southern division, Agricultural Adjustment administration, Washington.

Speaking before a large and appreciative audience which greeted him at the morning service at Lane Tabernacle C. M. E. church, Dr. Duggan was welcomed by Dr. Noah W. Clark, pastor, who told the guest speaker that "we who live in this section of the country are deeply interested in the progress of our people in the South."

In speaking of the fear which some persons have of the changes in our economic structure which have been initiated by the government, Dr. Duggan said:

"If we succeed in solving our economic problem, I am not afraid of a change in our form of government. If the average factory worker has steady work at good pay, he will not be lured either by Fascism or Communism. If the farmer gets a reasonable price for the things he raises, he will oppose radicalism. But we cannot expect men to give their support to a system of government which does not give them an opportunity to earn a decent living. We must provide that opportunity if we are to have a stable national life. To do so we must solve some fundamental problems. The federal government is the only agency which has the resources and the power to cope with many of these problems. Among them, as I see it, is the farm problem."

Of the 654,000 Negro farmers in the cotton producing states, Dr. Duggan paid tribute for their cooperation with the government's farm program and added:

"Most students of the problems of the Negro farmer have, I believe, overlooked factors in these farm programs which have proved beneficial to him and will prove more beneficial as time goes on. These programs have centered the attention of the country upon the South and the sharecropper. The sharecropper has been in the South since the Civil war. The AAA programs did not create the tenancy problem of the race problem. We have had them for years and not until we began national programs for agriculture did the country awaken to the situation among the sharecroppers and the farmers in our backward areas. The programs have been responsible for hundreds of meetings which were attended by Negro farmers. The Negro farmer has had an opportunity to learn fundamental facts and to examine his own situation in their light. To a large extent, these programs have brought the Negro farmer out of the eddy in which he lived and back into the current of action and vigorous thought. The programs have even called the attention of some planters to the plight of their own tenants. I know of a health clinic in Arkansas which grew out of the desire of a planter to have his tenants use the land taken out of cotton to grow more food and feed for home use.

"I am certain that these programs have helped dissipate race prejudice. Any movement which brings Negro farmers and white farmers together to discuss common problems is bound to result in a better understanding. The programs have caused many of us to have a better realization of the contribution that Negro farmers have made to Southern agriculture. We have come to realize that the South cannot progress until all its people progress, whether they are landowners or tenants, white or colored. The need for conservation of human resources is just as great as the need for conservation of soil resources."

U. S. Falls, local fish merchant and vice president of the St. Louis Negro Business league, presented A. L. Holsey, field officer, AAA, and secretary, National Negro Business league, who in turn presented Dr. Duggan to the audience.

Tenants Given Better

Weekly Ws Herald 7-30-39 Atlanta, Ga.

'Break' In AAA Setup

WASHINGTON—(A. N P)—The old Southern custom of exploiting Negro farmers, attempted nowadays under various disguises, has received a terrific set-back, through the administration of the Agricultural Adjustment administration of the Department of Agriculture, and because prosecution faced white planters and farmers who attempted to defraud their Negro tenants and sharecroppers, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been paid these defrauded Negro workers in the past year.

In one county in Alabama, the landlords failed to show the interested tenants on practically all farms which were operated by tenant farmers since the beginning of the Cotton Acreage Reduction program in 1934. A representative spent several months last summer and fall in this county assisting the state and county authorities in reworking all applications and contracts in connection with the agricultural adjustment program from 1934 through 1937.

It was found that 7,681 tenants share tenants and sharecroppers had not received their proportionate share of the payments which had been made to farms on which they operated. Of this number, 3,803 were Negroes.

$150,000 IN ONE COUNTY

Approximately $150,000 has been collected and distributed among the various interested tenants to whom these payments should have been made originally. It is possible that there will be cases of fraud, conspiracy or forgery, which will have to be handled by the office of the solicitor.

In Georgia, several cases were reported and gone into.

"In this county, 31 compiaints were investigated and it was found that 30 were irregular and involved as many landlords and 119 tenants, 85 per cents of whom were Negroes; $1,868.47 was collected and distributed to the tenants.

In county number two, 95 cases were investigated and 80 found to be irregular, which involved as many landlords and 372 tenants; 85 per cent or more of whom were estimated to be Negroes; $3,261.23 was collected and distributed to the tenants.

In county number three, six cases have been investigated; 62 tenants were involved, of which three were white and fifty-nine colored. The amount of cash distributed to these tenants was $2,520.60. There are still 25 complaints or tenants on file which involve 19 landlords.

In county number four, 12 cases have been invested, 86 tenants being involved, the majority of whom are Negroes. To date, there has been distributed to these tenants, $649.32 in connection with irregularities. There are 46 complaints on file to be investigated, involving 73 landlords.

It is thought that because many of the Negro sharecroppers are unable to read and write, white farmers are seeking to take an unfair advantage over them in the matter of payments made by the government. However, through the cooperation of the agents of the department, it is hope dto wipe out the majority of these practices.

JAMES P. DAVIS IS LOOKED UPON AS VALUABLE OFFICIAL

Founder of National Federation of Farmers Is AAA Field Agent

Washington, Feb. 23 (ANP)—Problems of the 654,000 Negro farmers in the Cotton States are constantly kept before the officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture by James P. Davis, head field officer of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and founder of the National Federation of Negro Farmers.

From his office in Little Rock, Ark., which comprises a staff of four, and through his extension travels over the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, Mr. Davis keeps in close touch with Negro farmers.

Thousands of pieces of information literature are distributed from his office in order that these farmers may be aware of the many benefits to which they are entitled under the provision of the AAA and complaints received by him are routed to the proper officials in Washington for adjustment.

"Thousands of Negro farmers," said Mr. Davis, "are receiving cotton price adjustments and soil conservation payments and are using this money to improve the general conditions of their homes. These farmers are loyal supporters of the AAA program as was demonstrated last December when they voted over 90 per cent in favor of the cotton referendum."

AAA Outlines Crop Solutions

Ways of Improving Cotton Problem Aired in Record

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The agricultural adjustment administration outlined today three ways of improving the problem created by the nation's cotton surplus.

(1). Increase exports.

(2). Increase consumption in this country.

(3). Adjust production and marketing of American cotton so as to bring the supply more nearly in line with demand.

"Progress is being made along all three lines of action," said the AAA in a memorandum urging growers to approve marketing quotas on the 1940 crop at a referendum to be conducted in the 19 southern and far-western cotton-producing states next Saturday.

Rstore Foreign Trade

"A determined effort is being made on a long-time basis to restore foreign cotton trade through the reciprocal trade agreements program, which recognizes the basic fact that a nation must buy if it expects to sell.

"In addition to the trade agreements program, an intensive export program was inaugurated July 27, 1939, in an effort to increase our exports and regain and hold our fair share of the world markets."

The AAA said federal and state governments were conducting experiments to develop new uses for cotton a new research laboratory at New Orleans which will have as one of its duties a search for new industrial uses for cotton.

"Our expenditures for the aid of unemployed persons have made is possible for the low income classes in this country to continue to purchase cotton clothing, cotton blankets, cotton mattresses and other cotton products."

Holding Markets

Pointing to favorable results of marketing quota referendum in 1938 and 1939, the AAA said producers were "using the federal farm programs to adjust production and to hold marketings in line with demand."

"Quotas may be used," it said, "to forestall further increases in our already large cotton supply and to protect the markets of farmers who plant within their acreage allotments. Unrestricted marketings tend to defeat the efforts of those trying to adjust to demand the amount produced and sold."

It was explained that marketing quotas can be authorized only when the supply of American cotton is more than seven per cent above normal. For the current season, the normal supply, as defined by the crop control law of 1938, would be approximately 18,200,000 bales. The actual supply was said to be 26,300,000 bales, or more than 44 per cent above normal. The world supply of foreign cotton is also abnormally large.

Quotas cannot be put into effect unless approved by two thirds of the growers voting in a referendum.

Recommends That Every AAA Office In South Have A Race Assistant

Making a plea for better training, Tom Campbell told the officials and farmers that it seemed funny to him as well as farm boys seeking an education, that if they wanted to really prepare themselves for teaching agriculture, or to hold the more important posts opening up in the field, they had to go out of the south to secure that sort of training. The conference went on record as recommending that every state AAA office in the south have a Negro assistant, and that additional Negro workers be provided in county offices with large populations.

P. H. Stone, of Savannah, Ga., in charge of extension work in his state, responded to the welcome address of Administrator R. M. Evans. Among the visitors who dropped in during the conference were, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Recorder of Deeds Wm. J. Thompkins, Joseph H. B. Evans and Cornelius J. King, Farm Credit Administration officer.

A significant aspect of the conference was that while it was called by the southern division of the AAA, the directress of the Central and East Central divisions and a dozen other officials, addressed the Negro representatives and sat in. E. A. Miller, director of Negro educational work presided. The summing-up address of J. C. McAdams, vocational training leader from Texas, during the closing session was the hit of the conference. His stories were well related to emphasize his appeal for full Negro participation in all forms of government activities.

600 NEGRO FARMERS MEET, DISCUSS AAA

TAFT, Okla., Dec. 14—(ANP)—This all-Negro town was host Tuesday to 600 Negro farmers and agricultural leaders who gathered to hear Washington and state AAA officials discuss details of the Conservation program preparatory to the Southwide vote on marketing quotas which will be held on Dec. 9.

This was the concluding meeting of a series conducted among Negro farmers in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

An important feature of the series was the address in Forrest City, Ark., by Dr. J. E. Walker, president Universal Life Insurance company of Memphis and president of the National Negro Business League.

Dr. Walker told the 1,000 farmers assembled in the high school auditorium that the A. A. A. program had been of definite value to Negro business and cited instances showing how policyholders in the Universal had been able to save their insurance from lapsing through payments made to them by the A. A. A. In concluding his address, Dr. Walker said, "You owe it to yourselves to exercise the right and privilege accorded you under this democratic program to go to the polling places on Dec. 9 and cast your vote on this grave economic question affecting you and the South."

The series of meetings which began on October 28, was under the direction of E. A. Miller, director of educational work among Negro farmers and assistant to the director, South division AAA, Washington. He was asisted by P. K. Norris, foreign service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, who discussed the international situation affecting cotton, and C. F. Clark, agricultural economist of the AAA.

Negro members of AAA staff who were also present on the tour were Mrs. R. R. Moton, James P. Davis and A. L. Holsey.

Holsey And Campbell At AAA Meeting

WASHINGTON, (ANP) — At one time, the farm problem was confined to the farm. Now a third of the problem is on the farm, a third is in the cities and a third in foreign countries" Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace told a conference of Agricultural Adjustment Administration State Officials from forty-eight States here Wednesday.

In considering the Agricultural Adjustment Program for 1940, the conference discussed such as "soil building practices," goals and payment rates," crop classification" and other related items in the Agriculture Conservation Program.

With appropriations of $837,560,000 just made by the Congress for Agriculture, the AAA is extending its educational program in order that farmers of every group and class may be informed of the benefits to which they are entitled.

T. M. Campbell, Field Supervisor, Negro Extension Service, and A. L. Holsey, Field Officer, AAA, both with headquarters at Tuskegee Institute, attended the conference.

AAA Director Lauds Southern Negro Farmers

ST. LOUIS (ANP)—Praise for Negro farmers of the South and a frank discussion of the causes and some proposed remedies for low income of Southern agriculture were high spots of an address delivered here Sunday by Dr. I. W. Duggan, director, Southern division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington.

Speaking before a large and appreciative audience which greeted him at the morning service at Lane Tabernacle CME church, Dr. Duggan was welcomed by Dr. Noah W. Clark, pastor, who told the guest speaker that "we who live in this section of the country are deeply interested in the progress of our people in the South."

In speaking of the fear which some persons have of the changes in our economic structure which has been initiated by the government, Dr. Duggan said:

"If we succeed in solving our economic problem, I am not afraid of a change in our form of government. If the average factory worker has steady work at good pay, he will not be lured either by Fascism or Communism. If the farmer gets a reasonable price for the things he raises he will oppose radicalism. But we cannot expect men to give their support to a system of government which does not give them an opportunity to earn a decent living. We must provide that opportunity if we are to have a stable national life. To do so we must solve some fundamental problems. The federal government is the only agency which has the resources and the power to cope with many of these problems. Among them, as I see it, is the farm problem.

Of the 654,000 Negro farmers in the cotton producing states, Dr. Duggan paid tribute for their cooperation with the government's farm program and added:

"Most students of the problems of the Negro farmer have, I believe, overlooked factors in these farm programs which have proved beneficial to him and will prove more beneficial as time goes on. These programs have centered the attention of the country upon the South and the sharecropper. The sharecropper has been in the South since the Civil War. The AAA programs did not create the tenancy problem of the race problem. We have had them for years and not until we began national programs for agriculture did the country awaken to the situation among the sharecroppers and the farmers in our backward areas. The programs have been responsible for hundreds of meetings which were attended by Negro farmers. The Negro farmer has had an opportunity to learn fundamental facts and to examine his own situation in their light. To a large extent, these programs have brought the Negro farmer out of the eddy in which he lived and back into the current of action and vigorous thought. The programs have ever called the attention of some planters to the plight of their own tenants. I know of a health clinic in Arkansas which grew out of the desire of a planter to have his tenants use the land taken out of cotton to grow more food and feed for home use.

"I am certain that these programs have helped dissipate race prejudice. Any movement which brings Negro farmers and white farmers together to discuss common problems is bound to result in a better understanding. The programs have caused many of us to have a better realization of the contribution that Negro farmers have made to Southern agriculture. We have come to realize that the South cannot progress until all its people progress, whether they are landowners or tenants, white or colored. The need for conservation of soil resources."

U. S. Falls, local fish merchant and vice president of the St. Louis Negro Business League, who in turn presented Dr. Duggan to the audience.

AAA Cracks Down on Southern Planters Who Cheat Tenants Force Them To Pay 'Croppers'

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) — The old Southern custom of exploiting Negro farmers, attempted nowadays under various disguises, has received a terrific setback, through the administration of the Agricultural Adjustment administration of the Department of Agriculture, and because prosecution faced white planters and farmers who attempted to defraud their Negro tenants and sharecroppers, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been paid these defrauded Negro workers in the past year.

Taking a few examples at random, the states of Alaama, Mississippi and Georgia, the following cases indicate the common practice upon which the Department of Agriculture cracked down.

"In one county in Alabama, the landlords failed to show the interested tenants on practically all farms which were operated by tenant farmers since the beginning of the Cotton Reduction program in 1934. A representative spent several months last summer and fall in this county assisting the state and county authorities in reworking all applications and contracts in connection with the agricultural adjustment program from 1934 through 1937.

No Share of Payments

"It was found that 7,681 tenants, share tenants and sharecroppers had not received their proportionate share of the payments which had been made to farms on which they operated. Of this number, 6,083 were Negroes.

Whom these payments should have been made oriignally. It is possible that there will be cases of fraud, conspiracy or forgery, which will have to be handled by the office of the solicitor."

"Approximately $150,000 has been collected and distributed among the various interested tenants to

A county in Mississippi is the next example of what was done to the Negro sharecropper and farmers.

"With the assistance of the county committee and the Mississippi state office, $10,272.19 was recovered from the landlord and paid to approximately 200 Negro tenants who should have received these payments when the contracts and applications were audited and paid, but who had not been properly shown on these documents.

In Georgia, several cases were reported and gone into.

Money To Tenants

"In this county, 31 complaints were investigated and it was found that 30 were irregular and involved as many landlords and 119 tenants, 85 percent of whom were Negroes; $1,868.47 was collected and distributed to the tenants.

"In county number fourb, 12 cases were investigated and 80 found to be irregular, which involved as many landlords and 372 tenants, 85 percent or more of whom were estimated to be Negroes; $3,261.23 was collected and distributed to the tenants.

"In county number three, six cases have been investigated; 62 tenants were involved, of which three were white and 59 colored. The amount of cash distributed to these tenants was $2,520.60. There are still complaints or tenants on file which involve 19 landlords.

"In county number four, 12 cases have been investigated, 86 tenants being involved, the majority of whom are Negroes. To date, there has been distributed to these tenants, $649.32 in connection with irregularities. There are 46 complaints on file to be investigated, involving 73 landlords.

"In county number five, conditions were unusually bad. The office has investigated the cases of 1,345 tenants, and approximately 85 percent of these are Negroes. These irregularities are in connection with the same type of payments and involve money in the amount of $5,197.18. Investigations are still being carried on and brought to a successful conclusion as rapidly as possible."

Landlords Settle

Interesting indeed is the manner in which these cases are brought to trial or hearing, and the moneys restored to the individual for whom it was originally intended.

Says one of the chairman of the committees: "You are familiar with my methods of effecting these settlements, which was to notify landlords in advance to appear at the beat headquarters with their records and tenants, to meet the county committee and representatives from my office. In hundreds of cases, the landlords effected satisfactory settlements with their tenants before appearing at the beat headquarters."

Because of the irregularities which have been practiced, officials say it is impossible to estimate the amount of money involved. It runs into figures which reach an astonishing total, yet at the same time the practices of the Southern farmer-owner are being broken down at every possible opportunity and wherever there is evidence of fraud, or guilt is established, the department is not slow in prosecuting and punishing the offenders.

It is thought that because many of the Negro sharecroppers are unable to read and write, white farmers are seeking to take an unfair advantage over them in the matter of payments made by the government. However, through the cooperation of the agents of the department, it is hoped to wipe out the majority of these practices.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

ALABAMA

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
January 4, 1939

FERTILIZE

Pasture for Best Results; Here's Negro Farmer's Success Story

Aaron Robinson, Negro farmer of Anne Manie community, Wilcox County, fertilized nine acres of pasture in the spring of 1937. Before fertilizing the pasture his cows did not produce enough milk to supply his family needs, but now he has milk to spare. He churns five gallons every morning, and is using butter instead of lard for cooking purposes.

W. H. Gregory, assistant extension agronomist, states that Robinson does not feed his cows anything except salt. The fine pasture affords such fine grazing that it is not necessary to buy feed. He also keeps two mules on the pasture and the grazing saves about one-half the feed bill for these work stock.

This fine pasture carries eight cows, two mules and four calves. They are all fat. Robinson uses Austrian winter peas and vetch.

ALABAMA CROPS ABOVE AVERAGE

Statistician, However, Says Yield Not Quite Up To Last Year

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 11—(AP)—Alabama farmers face "better than average" crop prospects this season, the state crop reporting service said Thursday, on the basis of conditions of May 1.

Conditions, however, were reported by Statistician J. C. Garrett as "not quite up to last year."

Cool spells were detrimental to young vegetation in some areas during April, but frequent showers and warmer temperatures aided growth during the last week of the month, the report added.

Prospects for major crops were reported as follows:

Winter Wheat—The prospective average yield of Winter wheat is now estimated at 11.5 bushels per acre compared with 13 bushels in 1938 and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 10 bushels per acre.

Wheat Estimate

Production is now indicated at 46,000 bushels which is a decline of 4,000 bushels from April 1 estimate.

Oats—Prospects for oats in Alabama are above average. Condition on May 1 was reported at 80 per cent of normal compared with 83 per cent on May 1, 1938, and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 73 per cent of normal.

Potatoes—The condition of early potatoes in Alabama on May 1 was reported at 82 per cent of normal which is 3 points above the April 1 condition and compares with 81 per cent on May 1, 1938 and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 76 per cent of normal.

Hay—Stocks of hay on Alabama farms on May 1 was estimated at 202,000 tons compared to 188,000 tons on May 1, 1938, and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 114,000 tons. The condition of tame hay was reported at 73 per cent of normal May 1 compared with 74 per cent on May 1, 1938, and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 68 per cent.

Peaches Increase

Peaches—Prospective production of peaches in Alabama as indicated by May 1 condition is 1,788,000 bushels compared with 1,705,000 bushels on May 1, 1938, and the 10-year (1938-37) average of 1,304,000 bushels. Condition of the crop dropped 13 points during the month of April, but still indicates a total production well above the 10-year average.

Pastures—The condition of farm pastures on May 1 was reported at 80 per cent of normal. This is 4 points above the April 1 condition and compares with 85 per cent on May 1, 1938, and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 76 per cent.

Farm Purchases Urged

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Aug. 1.—Macon County farm families who desire to purchase farms next year are being urged to make application early, announces O. M. Howard, local rehabilitation supervisor in charge of the Farm Security Administration under the Bankhead-Jones act. Macon County was one of five counties in the State selected to receive a proportion of the appropriation set up for the purpose of lending money to tenant farmers, share-croppers and farm laborers to purchase family-sized farms.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
June 28, 1939

The Negro Curb Market

THE Negro Curb Market, located at the corner of Eighth Street and 23rd Avenue, is building a neat little lattice-work fence, and otherwise sprucing itself up. The negro market celebrated its third anniversary only a few weeks ago, and, like the white market, it has already become something of an institution with Tuscaloosa.

With sales days being held twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday, the receipts during the summer are running as high as $400 a month, and there are more than 50 sellers who offer their wares on the market from time to time. The larger curb market at the courthouse is exclusively for white sellers and the negro market is exclusively for negro sellers, but no color line is drawn in either instance by or on the buyers. The preponderance of buyers on the negro market are negroes, but a number of white people use this market, especially on Wednesday, when the white market is not operating.

For the visitor to Tuscaloosa, the regular curb market has become almost as much of an attraction as the University, or the Veterans Hospital, or the new dam. There are few scenes of its nature and magnitude in the South, and to the person who loves flowers and all the good things which spring from the soil, it is a fascinating sight. The negro curb market has now become something of a sight itself.

Anniston, Ala., Star
August 30, 1939

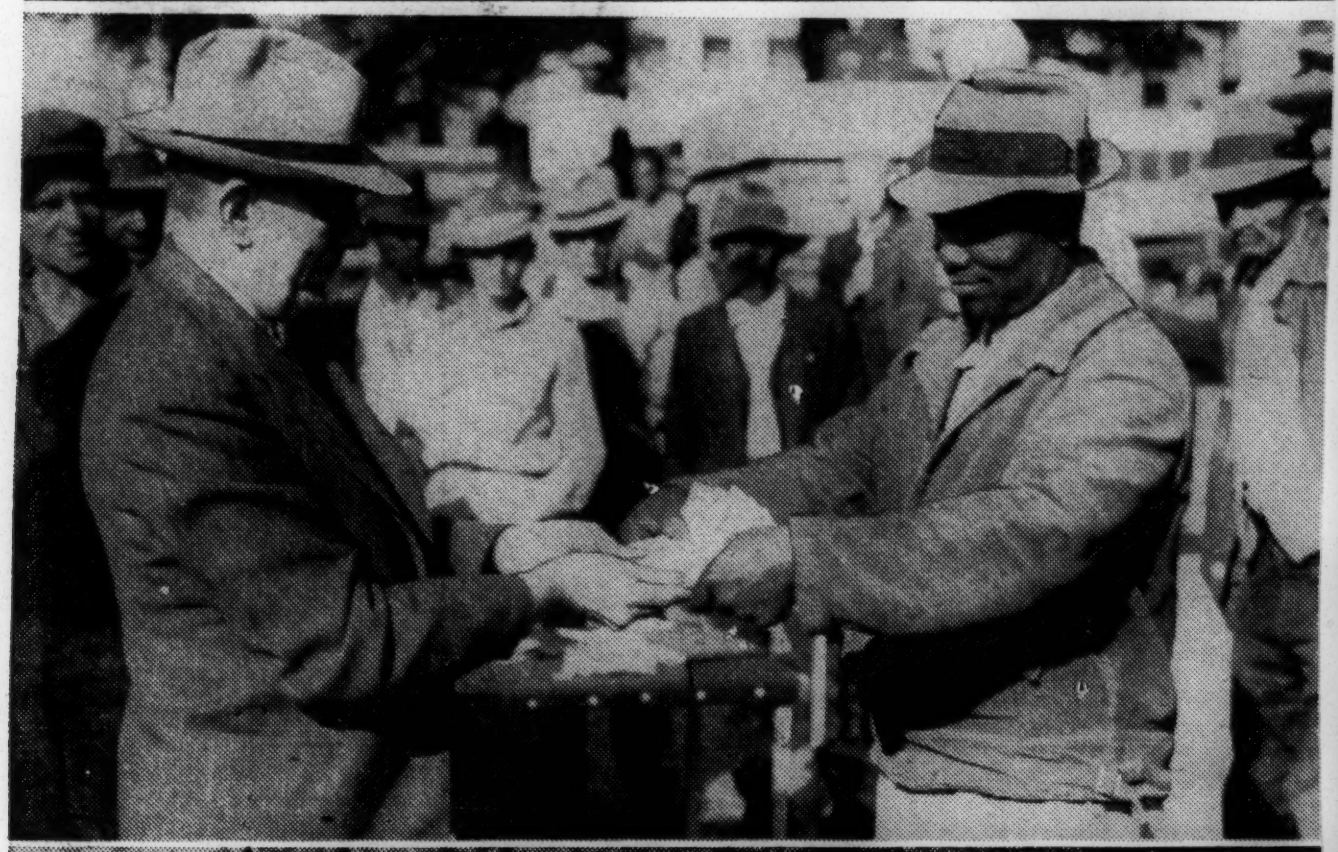
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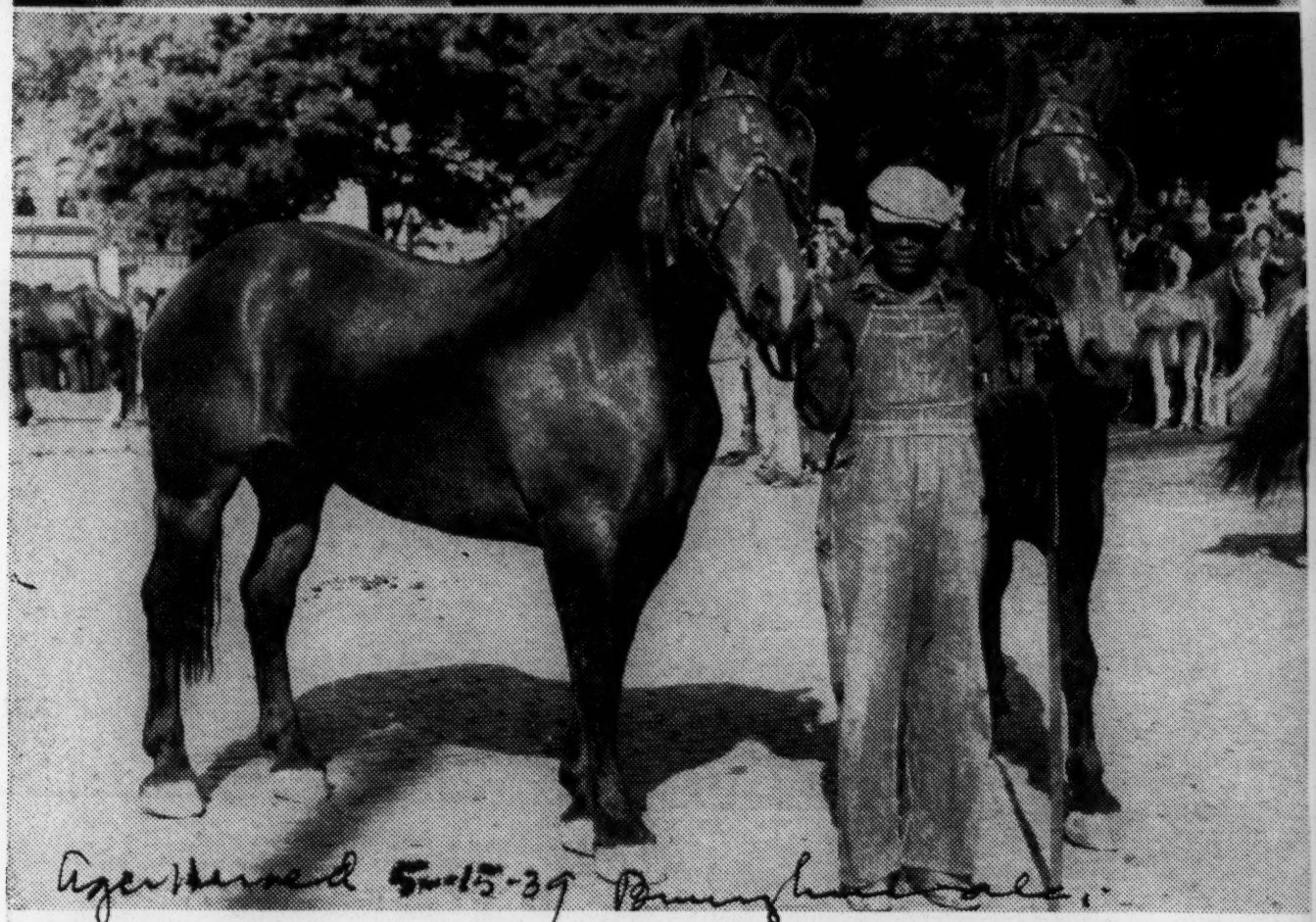
Eastaboga Negro Sells Cotton To Robinson Here

W. M. Wills, Eastaboga Negro farmer, today held the distinction of being the first farmer in Calhoun County to sell a bale of cotton from this year's crop.

Wills received 10 cents a pound and $5 yesterday afternoon from Robinson Brothers of Anniston for the first bale from his 80-acre farm. He was the first to sell a bale in the county last year, it also being sold to Robinson Brothers. His bail weighed 548 pounds.

Madison County Stock Show Conducted





May 3 was a red letter day for Madison County farmers when the first horse, mule and colt show met with enthusiastic response from farmers and business people. J. B. Mitchell, county agent, says the entry list of 92 animals would have been greatly increased had farm work not been rushed.

At the top above is Garth Humphrey, Route 1, Huntsville, Negro farmer, being awarded check for $38 which he won on his entries. John Nelson, secretary of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, is awarding the check.

Below is the best pair of mares, owned by W. E. Darnell, Huntsville, Route 1. Horses, jacks, stallions, mares, mules and colts were exhibited at the show, which Mr. Mitchell predicts will become an annual affair as more farmers are turning to the raising of workstock as a means of increasing farm income.

Foley, Ala., Onlooker
December 7, 1939

Negro Renter Operates Big Sumter Farm

A NEGRO farmer, Carroll Jones, who lives near Geiger in Sumter County, is an outstanding member of his race in the county and has proven that by hard work, good management, thrift and proper land use that a Negro farmer has as good opportunity to prosper as any one else.

Carroll operates a 3,500 acre farm which he leases and he has been on this same farm 17 years. He first started out growing only cotton and corn as the main crops, but as conditions changed and cotton proved less profitable he changed his system and gradually added more livestock, put more land in pasture and hay and devoted less to cotton.

At the present time Carroll has all the land in pasture and hay with the exception of about 400 acres on which he plants about 100 acres of cotton and the other in corn, soybeans, potatoes, etc. He usually makes about 60 bales of cotton and 2,000 to 3,000 bushels of corn, but this year on account of unfavorable weather he is making only 40 bales of cotton and 1,500 bushels of corn.

His main cash crops now are beef calves and mule colts. He has 225 high grade brood cows and eight registered Hereford bulls in his herd. Also, he has started a registered Hereford herd and has about 30 registered cows and heifers. There are 30 brood mares on his farm from which he raises an average of 20 mule colts a year. Each year he sells 15 to 20 young home raised mules. He keeps a good jack and a registered standard bred stallion. He also has some registered Poland China hogs to raise plenty of meat to supply farm needs and a surplus to sell.

Carroll has cooperated fully with the AAA program and has taken advantage of the opportunities offered for soil building practices. Much of the land on this farm has been terraced, pastures have been seeded and fertilized and a number of acres of vetch planted each year under the program.

"His record is an inspiration to other Negro farmers. Since 4,000 of the 4,700 farmers in Sumter County are Negroes they must learn to adapt themselves to a sound diversified farming program as Carroll has done for the agriculture and business of this county to prosper," comments W. B. Story, county agent.

Andalusia, Ala., Star
January 5, 1939

FERTILIZE

Pasture for Best Results; Here's Negro Farmer's Success Story

Aaron Robinson, Negro farmer of Anne Manie community, Wilcox County, fertilized nine acres of pasture in the spring of 1937. Before fertilizing the pasture his cows did not produce enough milk to supply his family needs, but now he has milk to spare. He churns five gallons every morning, and is using butter instead of lard for cooking purposes.

W. H. Gregory, assistant extension agronomist, states that Robinson does not feed his cows anything except salt. The fine pasture affords such fine grazing that it is not necessary to buy feed. He also keeps two mules on the pasture and the grazing saves about one-half the feed bill for these work stock.

This fine pasture carries eight cows, two mules and four calves. They are all fat. Robinson uses Austrian winter peas and vetch.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
February 28, 1939

Negro Curb Market Has Important Role

Beginning in May, 1936 the negro Curb Market has played as important a factor in the economic life of the county as any other one thing. Set up as it is, it plans not to serve the needs of the big truck grower but the average farm family which grows its living at home and markets the surplus.

With the cash earned from the market the sellers have been guided in a wise spending program. They have been encouraged to own property, repair their homes, improve the general living conditions about them. Three new houses have been built from funds made selling on the market; down payments made on two farms, twenty two houses screened, wells have been cleaned out, curbed and dug.

The decrease in street peddling from house to house has been looked upon with much pleasure.

Books are kept by each seller to determine their monthly and annual earnings. A total record is likewise kept and the results are shown on a graph in our office each month. Each year since the opening of the market sales have steadily increased.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
April 10, 1939

Farmers' Committee Members Selected

AUBURN, Ala. — Preliminary plans for making the annual Farmers' and Homemakers' Week, held here each August, outstanding in instruction and entertainment were made this week with the appointment of a committee to ascertain the desires of the State's agriculturalists.

In announcing the farmers' committee, P. O. Davis and M. J. Funchess, directors of the extension service and experiment station, said early appointment of a committee was to allow plans to be developed for farm people to take over the program themselves.

Members of the committee are J. C. Ford, state coordinator of Negro Extension Work, chairman; Emmett Sizemore, district extension supervisor; D. G. Sturkie, associate agronomist of the Alabama Experiment Station; L. M. Ware, head of the horticulture and forestry department of the school of agriculture; and S. R. Doughty, soil conservationist of the extension service. A ladies committee to work with farm women has not been announced.

Mr. Davis said praise of the plan of round table discussions with farmers in charge, begun last year, was considered when planning to put more of the program in the hands of the farm people themselves.

ALA. STRAWBERRY GROWERS ORGANIZE

GREENVILLE, Ala., May 11—(ANP)—Negro farmers of the Garland community located near here have, under the leadership of Elliott Robbins, Negro County Agent, organized the Colored Strawberry Growers' Association which is a co-operative marketing and purchasing unit.

Adam Golson, president of the Association, reports the recent purchase of a carload of 2,500 strawberry crates at considerable savings in cost for the individual members.

Negro-Operated Talladega Enterprise Is Successful

TALLADEGA, Ala. — The Log Cabin Curb Market which is located here within a block of the famous Talladega College is owned and operated by Negro farmers of the county.

Luke Jankin, president of the Curb Market Association which operates the Market, reports 48 members, nearly half of whom sold sufficient products during 1938 to "carry them without having to buy on credit." Mr. Jankin himself sold over $500 worth of products.

P. F. Thomas, Negro County agent who sponsored the organization of the Market, reports that one woman farmer cleared enough through the Market to make a down-payment on a farm of his own.

By special arrangement with the City Health office, the Market sells fresh meat which enables the farmers to realize larger cash returns for their cattle and hogs.

State's Second Quick-Freezing Plant Is Opened At Tuskegee

By ATTICUS MULLIN

TUSKEGEE, ALA., June 16.—The first sharp freezing and locker storage plant in either Central or South Alabama has been completed here by Henry Fillingim and will be in full operation within two weeks with 125 of the 200 lockers already spoken for and with inquiries being received every day for additional space.

Haygood Paterson, commissioner of agriculture and industries of Alabama, who is hopeful that Alabama may have more than 200 of these plants in the next two or three years, inspected the new plant Friday and was high in his praise of its efficiency and possibilities.

"This is the second plant of its kind in the State," said Mr. Paterson, "and the first in Central and South Alabama. North Alabama has one such plant at Trussville, just north of Birmingham. Plants of this character will enable Alabama farmers to cut in half their imports of meats, the money remaining at home being available for a fuller life for farmers and their families.

"I hope," continued Mr. Paterson, "to see every farm community in Alabama have a plant of this character and I firmly believe that every farm community able to support one will have one. They are available for quick freezing of vegetables and fruit as well as meat."

The 200 lockers in the storage compartment of the plant will have a capacity of approximately 60,000 pounds of meat at one time. They are rented for $10 a year and are approximately 20 by 30 inches and have approximately seven cubic feet of storage space to the locker. They are of steel. The temperature in the storage room where the lockers are installed will be kept at 10 degrees above zero.

The sharp freezing room is capable of freezing 500 pounds of meat and a temperature of 10 degrees below zero will be used for sharp freezing before meat and fruits and vegetables are placed in the lockers.

There is a chilling room in which meat carcasses will be hung until they are thoroughly chilled out before they are cut up for the quick freezing room. Ample capacity for a dozen or more carcasses at a time is included in the chilling room.

Bins For Salt Meat

In addition to the sharp or quick freezing room and the locker storage room and the chilling room, there is a large room with wooden bins where salt meat will be kept. The temperature in this salt meat room will be kept above freezing or around 40.

The plant will employ an expert butcher who will cut carcasses for patrons in sizes and shapes that the patron wants and these sizes and shapes will be wrapped in the proper wrapping paper for storage in the patron's bins. A small processing fee will be charged for this service, a fee in line with that being charged in thousands of plants like it in the North, Mr. Fillingim said.

One of the remarkable things about the sharp freezing and storage plants to the writer was the very small weight of the freezing machinery. It was astounding to see how these small machines could do such work in lowering temperatures.

Outguesses Weather

Quick freezing plants will enable the farmer to out-guess the weather man. He can kill animals now at any time of the year and be sure that they will be as fresh as frozen meat always is. And he can quickly freeze his beans and peas and other fresh vegetables as well as fruits and keep them as fresh as they come from the vine, bush or tree. He can have corn on the cob for Christmas and fresh peaches on Washington's birthday. Only quick freezing makes these things possible.

Mr. Fillingim says he will have a smoking plant close to his storage plant where meat will be smoked according to government standards. He will also have a sausage mill to take care of the meat his patrons want to turn into sausage.

Mr. Fillingim told the writer that quick freezing plants up to 1,200 lockers in capacity had been erected in the North and West and some up to 1,000 lockers in Tennessee.

These 200-locker quick freezing plants cost around $35 a locker to erect and equip. In other words a plant the size of Mr. Fillingim's in Tuskegee will cost around $7,500. The more lockers, the cheaper the initial locker cost will be. And he can command temperatures as low as 30 degrees below zero if they should be needed, which Mr. Fillingim says they never will be.

"From inquiries I have received for locker space," said Mr. Fillingim, "I am afraid I have built a plant that will have to be enlarged before a year is over. That is the history of such plants in other States."

"Alabama is on the move to emancipate herself," said Commissioner Paterson, in bidding Mr. Fillingim godspeed.

Opelika, Ala News
September 18, 1939

Harvest Full Blast, Brighter Prospects State Cotton Crop

By DONALD L. ROBERTSON

Auburn, Ala., Sept. 18—Alabama's annual fall harvest is progressing at top speed with farmers picking cotton, saving hay, making syrup and gathering other crops. Along with their harvesting activities, farmers are planting winter legumes for soil building and temporary grazing and small grain for feed, grazing and for soil protection.

Estimates are that more than a half million farm people, including men, women, and children, are working in the fields daily in an attempt to harvest the cotton before possible tropical storms, driving rains or heavy dews damage the crop. The Alabama cotton crop is better than was expected two months ago. It has improved considerably during the dry weather of recent weeks and is now estimated at 953,000 bales compared with 1,081,000 bales last year.

Hay harvesting, too, is going forward with all possible haste with farmers mowing grasses and clovers in fields, meadows, undergrazed pastures, and wherever a cutting is available, in an effort to save all the roughage possible. The Alabama hay crop, including all types of hay, is estimated at 709,000 tons compared with about the same tonnage last year.

Alabama is short on grain feeds. The corn crop is estimated at 40,825,000 bushels and the oat crop at 2,838,000 bushels, compared with 49,700,000 bushels of corn and 3,168,000 bushels of oats last year.

In an effort to help farmers overcome this short feed crop, workers of the Alabama Extension Service are stressing the importance of farmers planting small grains and cover crops and improving their pastures this fall, announces P. O. Davis, director. Throughout the state county agents are meeting with farmers to help them plan their fall work, he says.

"We are convinced that oats deserve a bigger place on Alabama farms," says Director Davis. "They serve as a soil protection during the winter months and furnish feed in the early spring when many farmers are deficient in feed. Ordinarily oats produce from 20 to 30 bushels and with proper fertilization yield 50 to 60 bushels per acre."

Reports indicate that farmers in all parts of the state are attending the county meetings and are planning to grow more small grain and cover crops. Already about 1500 Lowndes County white and Negro farmers have attended such meetings, reports J. W. Matthews, county agent. "Apparently the acreage of both oats and winter cover crops will be 100 percent greater than last year," he says. "Wide use is being made of AAA assignments in this connection."

"We plan to continue developing Alabama's pasture program which has served especially well and has proved its value in a diversified farm program," says Director Davis. Extension workers are advocating the production of beef cattle on grass in the Blackbelt section of Alabama and finishing them in the Tennessee Valley and other sections with sufficient grain feeds. Some grass fed cattle already have been shipped out of the Blackbelt section into other sections to be fed for slaughter.

This also is a busy season for poultrymen, says the Extension poultryman. As the new crop of pullets are coming into production laying houses should be given a thorough cleaning and disinfecting. Grazing crops should be planted to reduce the feed bill and to get a high production of eggs. All cull hens and slow developing, or otherwise poor pullets should be culled from the flock. Start the new pullets off right with a clean house, free from mites and lice, keep them that way throughout the year, and feed them well at all times. Continue to feed pullets all the grain they will eat even after they begin laying, as it is important to build up body weight. In the laying house the pullets should have plenty of ventilation as crowding and poor air often start colds.

Alabama Cotton Homes Are Watched As Experiment By Engineers Of FSA

BY WILLIAM M. PINKERTON

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Men who have built steel houses, mud houses, adobe houses and assembly - line frame houses are watching now the weather's wear on their first cotton house.

If a duck-covered dwelling in Coffee County, Alabama, stands the test, the South may find a new outlet for its piled-up cotton surplus.

The cotton house is the latest experiment in the Farm Security Administration's search for ways to house poor families comfortably within their incomes.

Housing families with the building materials close at hand is an FSA principle which has turned its engineers to startling experiments. They used pine in the Southeast; cedar in the Northwest; steel in Tennessee and desert dirt in New Mexico.

And now they are eyeing the house that is covered with cotton duck—the same duck long used by the United States Navy as a waterproof, sun proof, spot proof decking for ships.

A family has been living in this unique dwelling for a month or so, but the engineers are withholding judgment. There seem to be some blisters.

If the trial house warrants further experiments, another may be tried, with the duck stretched on panels fitted together for the wall, instead of being stretched over a whole side surface.

Roof and walls both are covered with the cotton dressing, nailed to a smooth backing of plywood, plaster or composition board. It replaces the clapboards.

Advocates of the cotton house declare that "the duck is free of curls and buckles, and is flexible and weatherproof . . . is easily treated to make it fire-resistant . . . is an excellent insulating material."

Painted with a mixture of white lead and linseed oil every four or five years they say, the cover should last half a century.

Six men could build a cotton house like the five-room dwelling in Coffee County in 10 days. The cost, including modern plumbing and electric wiring, is around $1,350—about the same as a frame house.

The cotton house now faces its acid test—"living experience." Government men, checking temperatures and talking with the family living there, will report later whether cotton can "make a house a home."

In four Southern states, houses of steel are facing the same test. Since March, 14 families have been living in such dwellings in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Strangely enough, the engineers believe the galvanized sheet walls will keep the house cooler than wood. A "V" trough in each sheet keeps the steel from buckling in weather changes.

While these new-type dwellings pass the test of being-lived-in the engineers are testing Southern mud. They believe the abode-bricks of the arid Southwest may be made from the damper soil of Louisiana and other Eastern states.

The old Indian formula—with chopped straw for a binder—has been discarded for a "stabilized adobe" using asphalt emulsion. In some Southern communities, chemists found the soil will not mix right for abode. But builders believe tests will prove their sand-soil-asphalt a new building material for much of the Southland.

Already, families in Alabama are living in FSA houses of rammed earth—another process. But two years of "living experience" show that these modern "mud huts" may not be proof against a windy, rainy climate.

While the FSA has experimented cautiously with untried housing ideas, its officials are proudest of its accomplishments in building ordinary frame houses at low cost.

"In Missouri," declared one, "we built 100 houses in 100 days at a little more than $1,100 a house."

The actual building of FSA houses for near-relief farm families is done by private contractors, but the government engineers sold a few new tricks to small-scale builders.

In several localities, houses came off the assembly line like cars or canned goods. A high-efficiency design for a small house was laid out, and 100 or so like models were ordered.

Machine saws cut the lumber at central assembly yard. On long platforms, men fitted ready-made sections of wall. Foundation posts were turned out in a battery of cement molds. When the parts were finished, the makings of a house could be loaded on a truck, hauled to the site, and erected quickly by a small crew.

Some Southern contractors have taken up the system on their own, to furnish more needed housing to low-income families.

An FSA engineer declared they had saved money on low-cost housing by careful designing, mass purchasing and pre-fabricating.

"We measure the two-by-four against the dollar," he quipped.

Peanut Week For State Designated; Festival Planned

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 3—(AP)—Stressing the peanut's importance in Alabama agriculture, Gov. Frank M. Dixon issued a proclamation Tuesday designating the period Oct. 9-14 as Peanut Week.

The proclamation called attention to the second National Peanut Festival in Dothan Oct. 11-13, and urged "all citizens of the state to encourage and aid in the celebration of this festival."

"The peanut," Dixon's proclamation said, "occupies a position of vital importance in the development of the vegetable-oil and livestock industries as well as in its effect upon all phases of agriculture which is Alabama's principal industry.

"The peanut, low in price but possessing a high nutrient value as food for humans as well as domestic animals, is one of the chief agricultural products of this state. . . .

"The consumption of peanuts and peanut products and byproducts already comprising a long list that is being constantly added to, is rapidly increasing throughout the nation. . . ."

A House Of Cotton

The eyes of many interested in the future of the South are upon a duck-covered dwelling in Coffee County, Alabama. If this dwelling stands the test, the South may find a new outlet for its cotton surplus.

The cotton house is the latest experiment in the Farm Security Administration's constant search for ways to house poor families comfortably within their incomes. The big problem, it seems, is to house families with the building materials closest at hand. With this idea uppermost in mind, FSA engineers have begun many interesting experiments. They have built houses from pine in the Southeast, cedar in the Northwest, steel in Tennessee, and desert dirt in New Mexico.

Now they are anxiously watching the house that is covered with cotton duck. This is the same material long used by the navy as a waterproof, sunproof, spotproof decking for ships. A family has been living in this dwelling for a month. But, as yet, the engineers are withholding judgment, because of blisters on the house. If the trial house warrants further experimenting, another may be tried.

Southerners should keep fingers crossed that this experiment with the cotton house proves really successful. A new outlet for surplus cotton will profoundly affect the economy of the South in a beneficial way.—Atlanta Constitution

BEST FARMER



Charlotte Hunter, recently proclaimed the leading farmer of Arkansas. Mrs. Hunter owns 320 acres at Noble Lake, Ark., and rents an additional 340 acres from Dr. J. W. Parker. She produces more cotton, peas and alfalfa to the acre than any farmer in the State of Arkansas. She also raises a superior breed of hogs and cows and has frequently won first prize for her stock at fairs and exhibitions throughout the South.

BRINGS IN BIGGEST BALE SECOND TIME

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Aug. 31—For the second consecutive year Mrs. Cora Cunningham, 50-year old widow, has brought in to the Little Rock Cotton Exchange, the first bale of cotton ginned in Pulaski County where she has a 50[illegible] acre plantation.

The 580-pound bale brought in by her this year was grown by Alf Grigsby, one of about 1[illegible] tenants on her farm.

Officials of the loan association say her credit rating is higher than that of many white farmers in the district.

Electricity Is Making Life Pleasant And Profitable For Families On Arkansas Farms

Rural Electrification Line Subscribers Find They Can Get Work Done More Efficiently With Assistance Of Power

Special to The Commercial Appeal

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Nov. 5.—Increased farm incomes, more home conveniences and an increasing satisfaction in farm living are results of rural electrification development in Northwestern Arkansas, according to L. C. Baber and Miss Lois Scantland, district agents.

Over 6000 farm families of the district are now receiving electric service, and additional rural lines are being constructed to serve 2900 others, Miss Scantland said. This number is expected to be increased as families along the lines learn the possibilities offered by electricity to increase their social and economic position.

Increasing the quality and market grades of farm products; cutting labor costs; increasing production—principally of poultry and its products; and discovering new sources of revenue are some of the principle ways by which incomes have been raised, while more efficient home operations are being made possible through the use of refrigerators, radios, washing machines, and better lighting facilities.

Reports From District

From each of the 19 counties in the district, the district agents said, have come many accounts of farm people who are efficiently using electricity. Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Reynolds of near Magazine, Logan County, report that electricity has enabled them, through the refrigeration it afforded, to improve the quality of their cream, increasing its market value as much as 90 cents per can.

"This one increase in income more than pays our entire electric bill," Mrs. Reynolds said.

"Electricity is the cheapest labor and adds more to the comfort of living than any other thing on the farm," said Shannon Pharr of the Morrow Community in Washington County. The Pharr family has a refrigerator, radio, electric fan, washing machine, water pump, and indirect lighting in its 5-room house. The monthly bill is slightly over $2.50.

The Pharrs say: "Either the labor saved by the water system or the saving of food through refrigeration more than pays the bill, but the thing we like most about electricity is the increase in the standard and the comfort of living."

Preston Smith Family

"The Preston Smith family of near Clarksville," said C. C. Lockwood, county agent in Johnson County, "had a $12.70 electric bill last month and they regarded it as money well spent."

The Smiths milk from 20 to 25 cows and sell whole milk. Since beginning to use electricity, they have installed a large size cooling unit with 1½ h.p. motor. In addition to the milk cooler, this unit takes care of a refrigerator. Electricity is used to run a bottle washer, cream separator, bottling machine, and water pump. There are lights in the house, barn, and milk house. They have a radio, washing machine, iron, and fan for household use. The Smiths regard electricity as the cheapest servant on the farm, since their electric bill is far less than even a portion of this service cost them before they got electricity."

James H. Moore, county agent in Faulkner County, said that, "Many farmers in this county have found that the use of electric lights in poultry houses has increased egg production materially, and has greatly increased the net income from their flocks."

J. O. Kumpe and Miss Velma Alford, county extension agents in Franklin County, told the district agents that one 9-mile electric line in this county has 14 families who have purchased electric refrigerators. One of these families, G. W. McKinney of the White Oak community, has bought a water pump, fan, radio, iron, and washing machine, in addition to the refrigerator.

Saves Work

"My new electric refrigerator saves a lot of hot work in the Summer," said Mrs. E. C. Rainey of the Scroggins community in Conway County. "While I am cooking, I can now prepare enough food to last two or three days."

Electricity can be made to pay for itself," Mrs. A. McConnaughey of the Prairie Creek Home Demonstration Club told Lila B. Dickerson, Benton County home demonstration agent.

"Before getting electricity, I sold cream for 18 cents, but after getting my electric refrigerator I have been producing sweet cream that I use to make a quality butter for which I have found a big demand at 35 cents per pound. My added income more than pays my electric bill," she explained.

The attitude of farm families toward electricity is reflected in a recent survey made by the Arkansas Valley Electric Co-operative of Ozark. Of 74 families interviewed on a line that had been energized for only six months, 86 per cent of the users had purchased radios, 81 per cent electric irons, 47 per cent washing machines, 25 per cent refrigerators, 17 per cent water pumps and nine per cent small motors.

Farmers' Cash Income Totals $847,000,000

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—Farmers' cash income from marketings and Government payments in September totaled $847,000,000, it was announced today by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The September income compared with $643,000,000 for August and $745,000,000 for September, 1938.

Income from marketings in September amounted to $781,000,000, representing more than the usual seasonal increase from the $601,000,000 for August, and was 10 per cent larger than the $718,000,000 reported for September last year.

Government Payments

Government payments totaled $66,000,000 in September compared with $42,000,000 in August and $27,000,000 in September, 1938.

For the first nine months of this year cash farm income, including Government payments, amounted to $5,441,000,000 compared with $5,357,000,000 for January-September last year. Income from farm marketing was $4,833,000,000 and was three per cent smaller than the total of $5,024,000,000 for the same months of last year.

Income from grains, fruits, vegetables and meat animals was slightly larger than for January-September last year, whereas income from cotton, tobacco and dairy products was smaller.

In January-September this year Government payments totaled $558,000,000 compared with $33,000,000 during the same period of 1938.

Cattle and Lamb Feedings Will Be Increased

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5. — The number of cattle and lambs fed during the 1939-40 feeding season will be larger than during the season just closed, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today.

"The increase will be in the Corn Belt as numbers fed in other areas probably will be reduced," the report said. "Short feed supplies brought about by drouth probably will result in a decrease in cattle and lamb feeding in Southern and Western states. Slaughter supplies of hogs throughout the present marketing year, which began Oct. 1, will be materially larger than a year earlier.

Bigger Demand Seen

"An improvement in both domestic and foreign demand for meats and lard is in prospect for the next few months," the Bureau said. "The sharp increase in industrial production in September along with generally improved business sentiment probably will be reflected rather quickly in increased incomes of consumers and in a stronger demand for meats and lard.

"Exports of pork and lard were reduced sharply in September; fixed prices paid in Great Britain for American pork and lard were low in relation to prices in this country during the month. The British fixed prices for cured pork, however, were substantially increased in October, and this probably will be followed by increased exports of United States bacon and hams.

"Prices of slaughter livestock declined unevenly during the last three weeks of September, following the sharp advance which accompanied the outbreak of war in Europe in early September. During the second week of October prices of hogs and lambs rose slightly but prices of cattle tended lower. During the past several weeks prices of feeder lambs have tended slightly higher. Prices of all kinds of livestock in mid October were materially above the low levels reached rather generally about mid August," the report said.

Best Methods Of Seeding Outlined By Agronomist

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 5. — Field selection of seed corn from standing stalks is absolutely essential if the best results are to be obtained from open pollinated varieties, H. W. Wellhausen, University of Tennessee assistant agronomist, said today.

"Corn yields can be increased more surely and more cheaply by use of better seed than any other way," Mr. Wellhausen said. "As soon as the crop is mature, a

farmer should go through his field with a picking bag, taking seed ears only from standing, well-balanced, medium-sized plants, which have a well developed root system.

Select Well Filled Ears

"Select only sound, well-filled ears that are free from disease and insect damage and have matured on erect disease-free plants. The number and size of ears on the stalk should be typical to the variety. The recommended varieties for Tennessee are the prolific type, therefore the selection of seed should come from two or more eared stalks. Second and third ears on the stalk are of equal value from the breeding standpoint.

"Corn shanks should be of such length and strength as to allow the ears to hang over with the tips downward. The husks should be of good texture and extend well over the tips of the ears. As soon as the seed corn is gathered it should be placed on hangers or racks in a dry, well ventilated place free from rodents until thoroughly dry," he asserted.

Attractive Living Room Planned By 4-H Girl

FORREST CITY, Ark., Nov. 5.—Making the living room the family fun center and the most attractive place in the home at small cost has been the demonstration of Miss Sylvia Spencer, junior-adult 4-H Club girl of the Twin Bridges community, Miss Esther Tennyson, home demonstration agent, said today.

With a small expenditure of money, combined with plenty of home labor, Miss Spencer has changed the living room of the tenant house in which her family lives from a drab, uninviting place into a very attractive and convenient room that the family and the young people who gather in the home enjoy together.

Covered Walls

Miss Spencer covered the walls with heavy paper and finished them in cream color with a cold water calcimine. She spent $5 for a brown and yellow linoleum rug to cover the worn floor boards, and 10 cents a yard for plain ecru marquisette for tailored glass curtains. A studio couch was constructed from material on the place and covered with cretonne drapes.

Her brother constructed a round Swedish-type coffee table, which is used for a reading table. She reupholstered a chair and cushion, and finished the woodwork with cream paint.

The clean, light walls; a studio couch; two or three comfortable chairs; a bookcase; a piano; and a new rug on the floor have made this tenant living room a joy to the family. Miss Tennyson said.

Arkansas Farmers Turning To Better Use Of The Land And Food, Feed Production

Commercial Appeal

Important And Significant Changes In Recent Years Studied By Assistant Extension Director, Who Cites Soil Building Benefits

Special to The Commercial Appeal

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Dec. 3.—Important and significant changes have been taking place in Arkansas agriculture during the last few years, particularly from the standpoint of better land use and production of greater food and feed supplies, H. E. Thompson, assistant Extension director, University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, said in reviewing the progress made by the state's farmers.

"Better land use has definitely come into the picture," he said. "Farmers are selecting their best and most fertile lands for cotton production under the Agricultural conservation program, a logical and common sense practice. They have definitely turned to the use of soil building and soil conserving crops to improve their soil. It is simply good business to produce the important cash crop or crops on the best soils and to maintain and improve the productivity of those soils.

"But while farmers have been at work improving their soil fertility, they also have done an excellent job of utilizing acreage removed from cotton production, as indicated in the average acreages of 1928-1932 as compared with those estimated for this year. The state has increased numbers of livestock.

"All of this program has come about in recent years, and can be attributed in a large measure to the agricultural adjustment program, which has enabled farmers to speed up, or telescope the years, in making improvements in their farm operations."

Six Tennessee Boys Attend 4-H Congress

KNOXVILLE, Dec. 3.—Six West Tennessee farm boys are attending the National 4-H Congress in Chicago, which begins today and will last until Saturday, as a reward for outstanding work in their projects, according to an announcement by G. L. Herrington, State 4-H Club leader with the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service.

Those attending are J. W. Houpe, Shelby County; Vaiden Greenslade, Shelby County; Allen Jones, Hardeman County; Alexander Morgan, Tipton County; Charles Childress, Dyer County, and Roy Smith, McNairy County.

J. W. Houpe won the 4-H livestock judging contest at the West Tennessee District Fair. He has been a member for six years and a member of the county judging team for two years.

Arkanscas 4-H Clubs Urged To Renew Work

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Dec. 3.—Arkansas 4-H Clubs are urged by W. J. Jernigan, state club agent, University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, to set a definite day during "4-H Club Week," held this year from Dec. 4 to 9, to check new officers, revive old membership, add new members and select local leaders, recreational leaders and other desired leaders.

The state goal for 4-H membership this year is 85,539—63,927 regular members, 5165 junior-adult club members and 16,477 negro members, Mr. Jernigan said.

The longtime 4-H membership goal in Arkansas is 100,000 by 1942.

Fertilizers Fallacies Shattered By Expert

STATE COLLEGE, Miss., Dec. 3.—A popular but unfounded belief of many Mississippi farmers is that increasing the number of plant-food units in fertilizers also increases the chance of fertilizer "burn," said L. I. Jones, extension agronomist of Mississippi State College.

Recent research by the United States Department of Agriculture shows that "burn" is caused by certain soluble salts in the fertilizer. Because smaller amounts of high-analysis fertilizers are used per acre, smaller amounts of these soluble salts are added to the soil. This naturally reduces the danger of "burn," Mr. Jones said.

"For instance, in the old fashioned low-analysis fertilizers the use of free ammonia, ammoniumed salts, or urea gives the same quantity of nitrogen without as much unnecessary salt.

"Also the replacement of kainite—only 20 per cent potash—with high-grade muriate or sulfate of potash reduces the danger of plant "burn." Eighty pounds of potash as kainite has the same effect on the salt content of soil solution as 640 pounds of potash as potassium sulfate."

Cash Crop Acreage Shows Decrease

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 3.—There is a steady decrease on thousands of small farms throughout the country in the amount of land planted in cash crops, according to a recent survey by the Farm Security Administration among its borrowers.

The FSA makes loans to low-income farm families who cannot obtain credit elsewhere, and follows these loans with advice and supervision on improved farming practices.

Among the 232,947 small farm families in the survey, little more than one-third of their acreage, or about 5,500,000 acres, was in cash crops. This is a radical change from the system on small farms under which most of the acreage was devoted to cash crops and very little attention was paid to cover crops that might build up the soil.

Under that system farmers bought most of their livestock feed and household food. Frequently some unforeseen disaster to their one cash crop meant financial disaster, loss of tools and equipment to cover debts, even the necessity of applying for relief. Sometimes it was drought, sometimes too much rain, or insects and pests, or low prices. Any one calamity was enough to spell ruin when it impaired the one and only income.

Farm Security advises its borrowers to raise their own feed for livestock, and to grow as much food as they can for home consumption. Home production can be much cheaper than buying and farmers have a living, even if something happens to the cash crop. One of the important results of such a program is a better diet.

Wilson Plantation Tenants May Receive AAA Payments

Commercial Appeal 12-7-34

From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Tenants on the R. E. L. Wilson plantation in Mississippi County, Ark., probably will be paid parity funds under the AAA, the Department of Agriculture indicated today, although payments aggregating $300,000 have been denied the landlord.

The Legal Department of the Department of Agriculture is pondering the question, but it was stated at the Department that it is felt "they can pay tenants for any performance they can prove."

Payments have been withheld for 1935, '37, '8 and '39, amounting to approximately $300,000. Payment was made for 1936 before questions of irregularity were raised about the 1935 payment. Since that time no payments have been made.

The Department said today that it was doubtful if any payment would be made to the landlord now on the basis of any information the company would submit.

The Department claims that the Wilson Co. had three opportunities to make an accurate report and failed to do so.

Except for 1936 when full payment was made, and in 1937 when parity payments were made to cash tenants, no payments have been made to the company for the past five years.

The Department said it will be difficult for tenants to prove their case, but it will do the best it can with the records in hand.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

Hill Quits As Wallace Wins Fight Over FCA

A. G. Black, Director Of Marketing, Chosen As Successor; Loan Policies Criticized

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace last night emerged victorious from an interagency battle waged last spring, when President Roosevelt announced he had accepted the resignation of F. F. Hill as governor of the Farm Credit Administration.

In his place, the President appointed an Agriculture Department official, A. G. Black, the Secretary's director of marketing and regulatory work.

Hill's resignation, it was reported, came at the demand of the President as a result of disagreement on the future of the FCA's lending policy.

Resignation Foreshadowed

The difference of opinion on FCA policy became an issue recently when FCA officials asserted Wallace sought control of the agency, despite a memorandum assuring its continued independent functioning, issued when the FCA was transferred to the department last spring.

Hill's resignation is the latest development in the New Deal's gravest current administrative dispute. Rumors he would be replaced, and off-the-record recriminations by officers of the Department and the FCA, have circulated for several weeks.

Partisans of FCA independence have protested that control by Agriculture would undermine the collateral of the agency's securities and that the purpose behind the move was to use loans as a coercive instrument in advancing the Department's social and crop-control objectives.

Wallace States Position

Equally vigorous arguments were made that the FCA was "reactionary" in its loan policy and did not attempt to co-ordinate its activities in advancing the Administration's farm program.

In a statement last night, Wallace said he would "still stand" on the former memorandum giving FCA administrative autonomy and would exercise "a co-ordinating supervision in only the broadest and most general way."

In another paragraph, however, Wallace said his function was to tie in the FCA "with the rest of the agricultural work and thus keep all these public services to agriculture moving forward toward common objectives."

Relief Loans Expected

FCA officials had charged that Wallace's "common objectives" were to use FCA funds in the department's lending program as instruments of farm relief rather than on FCA "sound, hard money" standards.

In a letter accepting the resignation and made public at the White House, the President said he understood Hill was resuming his duties as a professor of land economics at Cornell University.

"I want to express my very real appreciation of your services to the FCA during the past six years," the President wrote. "I am grateful to you because I know you have striven earnestly and unselfishly to make Federal farm credit of greater service to agriculture."

Hill, in a letter to the President given out at the same time, did not explain the reason for his resignation. Although he had refused to comment on a growing volume of reports and rumors during the past week, his friends expected him to issue a statement.

Black, the new governor, is 43 years old. He was born on a farm near Peoria, Ill., and studied at State universities of Illinois and Minnesota. He entered the department in 1933 and was placed in charge of the corn-hog work of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Later he served as chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Hill joined the FCA as a special assistant to the governor in 1933, after a career which included teaching economics at Cornell and service with the Federal Land Bank of Springfield, Mass. He became deputy governor in 1934 and governor last year when William I. Myers resigned to return to his teaching post at Cornell.

Wallace Explains Statement

Wallace said he issued his statement to make clear his "intentions" respecting the administration of FCA. He said a number of conflicting interpretations of his views has arisen "either through misinformation or deliberate desire to mislead."

He said the acts governing the FCA remain unchanged and that he expected Black "to continue and improve the work of making loans and giving service to cooperative marketing and buying associations."

He said Black would be responsible for making loans in a way that "will completely safeguard the equities of borrowers and investors."

Inferring, however, that the FCA "hard money" loan philosophy had not met agricultural needs, Wallace emphasized that "former Gov. Hill felt it necessary two months ago to suspend most foreclosures in certain areas."

Five Billions In Assets

Wallace said he wished "to place myself in a position to discharge my responsibilities" when the "serious problems" facing the FCA are brought to him for consideration.

Agencies operated by or under the supervision of the FCA have assets of more than $5,000,000,000, used in making long and short term loans

Negro Member Borrowers Are Making Good Record

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — "Many of our best Negro farmers are member-borrowers of Farm Credit administration lending services," states Cornelius King, special assistant to the governor of the FCA. Mr. King has recently returned from a tour of seven southern states, visiting farms of Negro members of production credit and national farm loan associations.

Mr. King says that thousands of colored farmers throughout the region visited are benefiting from federal land bank, production credit and emergency crop loans.

He found that colored member-borrowers are not only making a good reputation as credit risk, but they are also repaying their loans as rapidly as they secure income from the sale of farm products. He states that this is a good plan to follow and brings about a considerable reduction in the cost of the loan.

He reports further that he found several farmers who were not able to qualify for loans due to insufficiency of collateral, lack of clear title of property, or failure to have cancellation of mortgage recorded. "These are serious problems facing Negro farmers and must be given careful consideration in our programs for agricultural improvement," says the successor to the late Dr. H. A. Hunt.

Questioned as to specific cases concerning some of the colored member-borrowers of FCA services, Mr. King cited the following examples selected from the Oklahoma territory:

A Widow Is Member

Robert Partridge of Boley has 1,160 acres of land with more than 800 acres under cultivation. He has 38 very fine Hereford cattle, 138 Poland China hogs, and ample poultry and turkeys. Even at this season he still has on hand some 500 pounds of cured pork.

The place is managed by his two sons and worked by 11 tenant families. Mr. Partridge is a member of the county AAA committee and is also a member of the state FSA committee.

P. L. Anderson, member-borrower of the Farmers National Farm Loan association at Okemah, Okla., owns 120 acres, of which 72 are in cultivation. He has a 5-acre orchard composed of apple, peach, pear and plum trees, and about one acre in grapes.

His orchard is considered one of the best in that section. Over 300 chickens, seven beef cattle, and 18 hogs serve to supplement the income from the orchard and cotton crops. Mr. Anderson's son is in partnership with him.

The most interesting member of the Eastern Oklahoma National Farm Loan association at Tahlequah, Okla., was a widow, Mrs. Gordon, who was operating a 160-acre farm with the help of her three boys ranging in age from 12 to 23 years.

County Agent Assists

The county agent, A. H. Fuhr of Muskogee, had assisted in helping her to secure the loan and was therefore intensely interested in instructing them in the proper management of the farm so as to support the family, meet the semi-annual payments and also keep up operating expenses.

Mrs. Gordon proudly showed her turkeys, chickens, hogs and beef cattle she was raising to supplement the cotton and small grain as major cash crops. She stated that the income from her turkeys met the fall land bank payment and the income from her poultry met the spring note.

The special assistant to the governor of the FCA says that farm credit service is available to all farmers who can qualify, regardless of race, creed or color. He urges Negro farmers to make more extensive use of these low-interest-baring cooperative services.

Colored farmers desiring information relative to farm credit assistance may secure it from the county agents, teachers of vocational agriculture or may write directly to Cornelius King, special assistant to the governor, Farm Credit administration, Washington.

FCA BORROWERS WILL GET CONSIDERATION OVER BAD COTTON, TOBACCO MARKETS

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) Returning from a recent visit to North Carolina, Cornelius King, Farm Credit administration representative, said that agricultural and other leaders frequently asked questions relative to consideration that would be given Negro borrowers of the FCA lending institutions in view of the condition of the tobacco market and the low prices of cotton.

Mr King told these leaders that the FCA was taking cognizance of these conditions, and he added further that in keeping with the general policy, colored farmers would share with other farmers in the special considerations being given distressed borrowers in that section. "Not only are Negroes given consideration in receiving the services of this organization,' said Mr. King. "but they are also given consideration whenever difficulties arise over which they have no control."

The Negro representative of the FCA called attention to recent statements made by F. F. Hill, governor, and H. A. Lake, assistant deputy and bank commissioner of the FCA, relative to the fears of foreclosure in that area.

Said Governor Hill: "Some North Carolina borrowers are unable to pay installments on their mortgages as they mature," and he goes on to assure them that "special efforts will be made to assist every borrower to adjust himself to the current consideration."

Mr. Lake made the following statement: "I wish to assure you that every reasonable consideration will be given to the worthy borrower who is unable to meet his principal payments on his loan because of conditions beyond his control. Where a deserving bororwer is unable to meet these payments, consideration is given to a method of postponement which will meet his particular needs."

To Negro borrowers in this area who are not in a position just now to make full principal payments or who may be facing foreclosure action, because of depressed market conditions, Mr. King advises that they take to the secretary-treasurer of the local national farm loan association such portion of their installments as they may be able to raise and explain the details of their situations to that individual. Secretary-treasurers are in a position to consider the poblems of individual famers and to give them sound advice.

Negro Farmers Aided By Loans

Daily Herald
Nov. 1939
12-5-39 Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—According to reports from the office of Cornelius King, special assistant to the governor of the Farm Credit administration, 20 per cent or more of the production credit association borrowers in many associations in the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana are of the Negro race. Short-term credit has been provided this year through the facilities of the FCA for more than 5,000 Negro farmers in those states, "and incidentally," said Mr. King, "colored farmers in those states are considered good credit risks of these institutions." The 5,000 colored members in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana share in the ownership of $1,033,000 voting stock purchased by member-borrowers of these production credit associations. They thus get away from the loan shark methods formerly in vogue among many landlords.

The farm credit representative called attention to the savings realized by farmers who borrow through production credit associations, by reason of the low interest only for the time he actually has the money. Prior methods did not give the borrower a report on what he owed. Mr. King pointed out that with these savings farmers "are frequently able to save as much as one-fourth or one-third on their interest charges."

Farmers borrow from productions credit associations for various purposes, such as producing, feeding harvesting, and marketing of crops to finance breeding, fattening, and marketing of livestock: and some borrow for general agricultural purposes including repair, improvement, or alteration of farm buildings. "A large portion of farmers use at least a part of their loans for either the purchase of seed feed, fertilizer, spray materials, machinery, or farm supplies; or for the purchase of cattle, swine, or workstock; or to hire farm labor,' he continued.

Mr. King called attention also to the advantages of financial planning for the year, and suggested that prospective farmer-borrowers can be greatly helped by discussing their financial plans with the secretary-treasurer of the local production credit association.

FARM CREDIT GOVERNOR ADDRESSES RACE FARM LEADERS



F. F. Hill, governor of the Farm Credit administration, addressing group of Negro agricultural leaders from seven southern States on their recent visit to Washington. The visitors were the guests of Cornelius J. King, special assistant to the governor. Those present included the following farm credit representatives: A. S. Goss, land bank commissioner; C. R. Arnold, production credit commissioner; S. D. Sanders, co-operative bank commissioner; A. C. Sullivan, deputy intermediate credit commissioner; E. B. Reid, director of information and extension; Milton Rygh, assistant director of the credit union section and Cornelius King, special assistant to the governor. Others in the group are: W. N. Elam, agent for special groups, vocational education division of the Office of Education; Alva Tabor of Georgia, S. B. Simmons of North Carolina, George McDonald of Oklahoma, J. R. Thomas of Virginia, W. A. Flowers of Mississippi, Dallas B. Matthews of Louisiana, L. A. Marshall of Florida, A. Floyd of Alabama W. M. Buchanan of South Carolina, J. L. Seets of Tennessee and J. J. Mark of Kentucky —(ANP).

FCA Sees Progress On Farms

Farm Mortgage Loans Are Being Met

WASHINGTON—(SNS)—Since its organization the Farm Credit Administration has written "paid in full" on 100,000 farm mortgage loans —more than half of which were made since May 1, 1933. Nearly 60 per cent of these farmers who were fortunate enough to pay out of debt entirely have done so in the past two years.

"Although all of the million-odd Federal land bank and Land Bank Commissioner mortgage loans now outstanding—representing 37 percent of the total farm mortgage debt—are written for long terms ranging from 10 to 40 years, many farmers have found it possible to pay at a faster rate," commented Albert S. Goss, Land Bank Commissioner, today. "Payments in full ion, Including installment payments, special payments and payments in full, farmers have paid ff more than $529,759,000 of land ank and Commissioner loans over he past 6 years."

IAKING PROGRESS

Farm Credit officials say that in spite of the bad effect of repeated rought and low prices in some of he middlewestern states, farmers n the country as a whole are now making more rapid progress in paying off farm mortgage debts han at any time in the history of he farm loan system.

"At present the total amount of Federal land bank loans is being paid off at the rate of nearly 5 per cent a year," says Mr. Goss, "and it would be considerably higher but for the deterrent effect of the situation in about a half dozen midwestern states where many farmers have been unable to meet their payments regularly over the past few years due largely to repeated drought conditions. Nevertheless, the aggregate level of repayments is higher now than in 1929 or in any year since then. Farmers repaid the Federal land bank $65,966,000 during the first nine months of 1939 compared with $47,010,000 repaid in the corresponding nine months of 1938.

"Even on the Commissioner loans the repayment trend is increasing in spite of the fact that most of these loans were made to the more heavily indebted farmers during the period of emergency refinancing, 1933-35. Since then the Farm Credit Administration has further lightened the principal payments of thousands of these farmers by loans. However, principal payments lengthening the maturity of their creased from $40,600,000 in the first nine months of 1938 to $46,464,000 in the first nine months of this year."

ave increased from less than 000 loans in 1933 to approximately 25,000 in 1939.

"Of the total number completely paid since the Farm Credit Administration was organized, 56,940 ere first mortgage Federal land ank loans—many of which were ade before the Farm Credit Administration was organized——and ,572 were first and second mortage Land Bank Commissioner ans, all of which have been made nder the Farm Credit Administra-

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

FSA Program

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: While the New York prosecutor who aspires to the Presidency hurls anathemas at the Roosevelt Administration which he boasts are flung while he is "in anger," and grimly asserts that America has a "rendezvous with despair," let us take notice of practical evidences of constructive progress.

They come from Dr. W. W. Alexander, Farm Security administrator. His program is not one of radical reconstruction, but it is one that cannot fail to convince the thinking citizen that definite steps are being taken toward a goal of social security rather than the "rendezvous with despair" which Mr. Dewey envisions.

Under the rehabilitation loan program, says Dr. Alexander, the Farm Security Administration "is now helping more than 589,000 families to plan and finance their farming operations." In conformity with the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act the FSA has made loans to 61,180 tenants, share-croppers or farm laborers to buy farms of their own. In addition, grants for emergency subsistence needs have been made to hundreds of thousands of families in drought and flood areas.

Reason for optimism is found in the testimony of Dr. Alexander that the Government is pretty sure of getting back at least 80 per cent of its loans to farmers. That isn't bad in the least. Substantial businessmen of the safe and sane variety do not always make such a good showing.

It would seem that the farmers are for the most part repaying their loans. It would also seem that the FSA program is standing the test of experience and is far from the chimerical and fantastic dream it was called by tory propagandists.

Get this, quoted from Dr. Alexander: "Despite the fact that none of the borrowers was considered a safe commercial risk, it has been conservatively estimated that approximately 80 per cent of the money loaned will be returned eventually to the Federal Treasury, except in those areas which have suffered from prolonged drought."

Personally, I should like to see the Government go much farther in utilizing Federal machinery for the rehabilitation of the victims of economic injustice, misfortune and distress. But the millennium is still a distance away, and sane progressives must welcome such concrete and helpful policies as those of the FSA.

They are not the ultimate solution of the social problem, but they are immediately humanitarian and helpful. And they brand as a lie—with the branding iron of hard facts—the theatrical and hysterical allegation of Mr. Dewey that America has a "rendezvous with despair."

LINN A. E. GALE.

Washington, Dec. 15.

AGRICULTURE-1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Expedimenting With Co Farming

Of all the agencies established by the New Deal, the Farm Security Administration probably is of greater permanent significance to the future of the South than any other. Many of the activities of the agency have been experiments aimed at finding methods of raising the social and economic standards of the low-income farm families of this region.

Of the total of some 300,000 farm families who are now being lent money by the FSA, fewer than 5 per cent are living in planned agricultural communities. There are perhaps 200 of these communities in the nation, five of which are operated on a cooperative basis. The manager of one such colony at Coolidge, Ariz., has resigned because he considers the operation of the community to be on a basis similar to that of Soviet Russian farms.

The first agricultural community organized in this country, at Jamestown, was on a communal or cooperative basis. Capt. John Smith and his followers later gave up the idea because there were drones who took advantage of the division of the fruits of the community's labor. Since then there have been many cooperative colonies in this country established through private initiative. Among the more famous were the Brook Farm experiment in New England which was composed mainly of literary figures of the last century; New Harmony, Ind., founded by Robert Owen and his followers; and scores of religious colonies which have met with indifferent success. The town of Fairhope, Ala., is owned by a corporation and no individual can own property in his own name.

The cooperative farms established by the FSA are based, not on the collectivist farms of Russia, but follow the pattern popular in Denmark, which has perhaps the most stable and successful agricultural population in Europe. Individual farmers who are members of the Casa Grande Valley Farms, Inc., at Coolidge, Ariz., will never own a farm outright. Likewise the shareholders of the U. S. Steel Corporation, or Chrysler Corporation, will never be able to own a single plant, a warehouse, or a tool shack—as individuals. An even closer analogy is the American Cast Iron Pipe Company, located here in Birmingham. It is also a cooperative or communal enterprise in which the employes share the profits on a basis of their labor and on a basis of their working interest in the corporation. The members of the Coolidge colony will share on the twofold basis also: in wages on a basis of their labor, and in dividends on the basis of being shareholders.

No one knows the answer to the South's agricultural problems. The most successful agricultural enterprise in the South today, by general agreement, is the Delta Pine and Land Company plantation at Scott, Miss., the largest cotton-producing farm in the nation. It is owned by English textile interests and managed by the able Oscar Johnston. There are many who believe that the 40-acre-and-a-mule farmer will not be able to compete with the large-scale machine farming of the future in the South. The cooperation farms sponsored by the FSA are an experiment to determine whether the participating farmers can take advantage of large-scale farming methods. They will be capitalists and own the farm as English capitalists own D. P. and L., and at the same time be employes of the corporation.

The FSA is experimenting with varied types of projects. In some of them individuals are being sold the lands and homes, in some they are being sold the homes and only a small plot of land. Under the Bankhead-Jones tenant purchase act, the government is lending money to farmers who buy farms and homes of their choice. At Coolidge, Ariz., the government is lending a group of farmers the money to purchase an entire colony.

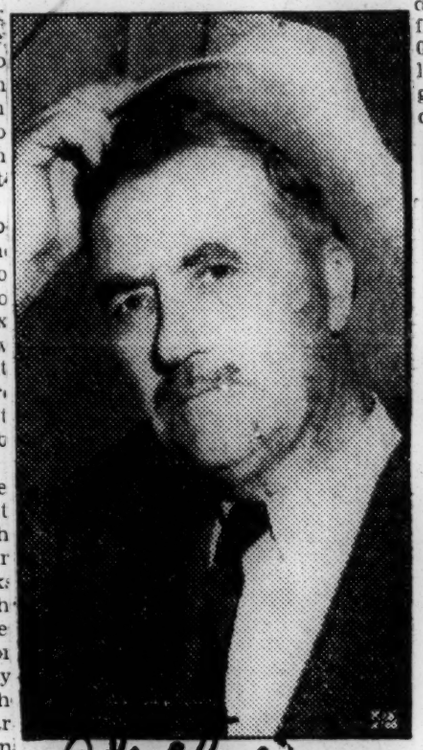
In some instances these experiments will be failures; from the others the South may find solutions to some of the pressing problems of its agricultural system. The Department of Agriculture for many years has subsidized experiments aimed at developing contented cows or new cotton staples. The FSA is experimenting with the human factors in agriculture. Through such subsidies it hopes to demonstrate types of enterprises that may be undertaken by private individuals.

In recent years the government has entered numerous fields formerly reserved to private enterprise — in some instances wisely, in others unwisely. Basically socialistic principles are involved in the lending of huge sums to banks, insurance companies and railroads by the RFC; in the lending of money to hard-pressed home-owners by the Home Owners Loan Corporation; in the Tennessee Valley Authority, in the Inland Waterways Corporation; in the subsidization of shipping lines; in the guaranteeing of construction and repair loans through the Federal Housing Administration and low-cost housing projects; in the insurance of bank deposits through the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; in the lending of money to cooperative electrical distribution systems through the Rural Electrification Authority.

The lending of money to cooperative farming enterprises may prove to be unsound, despite the fact that even former President Hoover saw nothing dangerous in lending money to cooperative marketing associations and subsidizing the old Farm Board. Certainly the FSA policy of lending money for the purpose of establishing textile enterprises on several FSA projects, including two in Alabama, is far-fetched as an experiment in agricultural rehabilitation. The value of such enterprises has little relation to the problems of agriculture despite the fact that part-time farming is one phase of the South's agricultural economy. Unless FSA projects are conducted in a manner that will permit duplication on a large scale through private initiative, they cannot be justified as experiments.

However, there is no cause for undue alarm in the discovery that the FSA has sponsored a few cooperative farms. It should be kept in mind, however, that this is an infinitesimal phase of the whole program. The South needs experimentation in agriculture; it needs experimentation in the government laboratories which will attempt to discover new uses for cotton, cottonseed and peanuts; it needs experimentation in the human factors involved in its agricultural economy, an economy which can never be looked upon as sound as long as two-thirds of its farmers own no land.—Birmingham News.

Quits Farm Project



R. A. FAUL, (above) retired Jan. 1 as manager of the Farm Security Administration's 1,200-acre cooperative farm project near Coolidge, Ariz. He called the project "communist patterned."

FSA Executives To Confer Here

Rehabilitation loans to tenants and other low-income rural families of Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina will be discussed here tomorrow and Tuesday at a conference of regional and State leaders of the Farm Security Administration.

E. S. Morgan, assistant regional FSA director, said loans approved for the 1939 crop year probably would number 40,000 compared to 37,177 last year.

Loan applications from the four states of FSA Region 5 totalled 106,006 Dec. 31, Morgan said, representing 41,008 who obtained loans previously and 65,898 applying for the first time. The applications, accompanied by detailed farm and home plans were listed by states as Alabama, 2,086; Georgia, 42,062; Florida, 15,712, and South Carolina, 17,046.

The rehabilitation loans are expected to be completed during the next three months and will aggregate approximately $16,000,000, against $7,842,952 in 1938. About 1,250 loans are to be made in the region to finance the purchase of farms by tenants, sharecroppers and farm laborers under terms of the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act. Approximately 50,000 have made application for these loans, which are limited to an aggregate of $4,295,000 for that purpose during the fiscal year ending June 30.

All Groups To Get Loans From Farm Security Administration

LAGRANGE, Ga., Jan. 5 (Special)—June Owens and Bos Allison, tenant farmers are included among the eight chose from a total of 160 applicants in Troup County, to receive loans from the Federal Farm Security Administration that will enable them to buy, own and operate the farms they formerly rented.

In announcing the names of those selected, County Farm Supervisor J. D. Whiteside said that in addition to the loans to buy the farms on which they have been working as tenants, each of the prospective farm-owners will also have made available to him for soil improvement and repairs to buildings, approximately $5,000.

FSA Loans Help Farmers Succeed

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—(ANP)—During a recent survey of farm conditions among Negroes in Alachua county, Fla., for the period 1937-39, it was discovered that 329 of the Negro farm families in the county received loans totalling $72,000 through the Farm Security Administration. These loans were secured solely for the purpose of raising better farm crops, developing better livestock, making adequate repairs and improving sanitary conditions. As a result 153 sanitary units have been constructed for these farm families. In addition to the large loans as mentioned above, these farmers were granted $3,225 according to their needs. An additional $2,723.85 was also donated for the installation of screens and pumps.

It was reported that 36 per cent of the farmers have already repaid these loans (within a period of less than three years) in spite of the fact that they do not become due until 1941.

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
February 20, 1939

NEGROES MAKE MATTRESSES



Two stages in a mattress-making project among negroes, supervised by Mrs. Jacqueline Frasier, farm security home management supervisor, in recent months.

The lower picture shows the finished mattress, with a group of negroes on the Smiley plantation near Pleasant Hill gathered around Leslie Tyus, who stands directly back of the mattress which he aided in making. In the upper picture the cotton is being put in the tick, preparatory to being packed.

Around 200 mattresses have been made under the program, under direction of the two supervisors, Mrs. Frasier and Miss Faye Wooley, who plan a mattress for each of the 270 negro families under their supervision.

Corinth, Miss., Weekly Corinthian
April 5, 1939

NEGRO RECEIVES FIRST FSA LOAN IN THE COUNTY

First check for the purchase of a home in Alcorn county under terms of the Farm Security Administratino was received in Corinth this morning by R. H. Mulholland, who is in charge of the office of the FSA here. The check was written for $3,625 and will be used in the purchase of a 110-acre farm known as the L. C. Hale place located three miles west of Corinth on the Smith Bridge Road. The farm was selected by Myles Spence, colored, the first farm to be purchased by white or colored families under the present setup.

Spence will have 40 years in which to repay the loan to the FSA In the meantime the farm and the house on the farm will be improved according to plans to be worked out by the staff members of the Farm Security Administration. The home supervisor and farm supervisor of the FSA will plan the home and farm program for Spence and his family of nine, including himself and wife, four boys and two girls and his mother. Spence is 43 years of age and his wife is 40.

Approval of the Spence application for a loan is one of ten such applications for Alcorn county, eight white loans and two colored having been allotted the county Five dockets have been completed and the sixth is being completed today for forwarding to headquarters for approval. All loans are to be closed on June 1st.

It is understod that several options have already been taken by those whose applications have been filed and on which dockets have been completed and the purchase of farms is awaiting receipt of checks from the Administration.

In some cases small rehabilitation loans are made the buyers to take care of expenses of the transition and to enable them to make the crop for the current year.

Report Tenants Paying In Advance on FSA Loans

WASHINGTON. —(ANP)— Tenants and sharecroppers who have borrowed government money to buy farms of their own are repaying their loans far in advance, the FSA reports in a statement released this week.

As the tenant purchase program neared the end of its second year of operation FSA announced that repayments on loans made under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant act had totaled 135 per cent, of maturities. Although only $103,033 was due as of March 31, 1939, the borrowers had already repaid $138,978.

By the close of its second year of operation on June 30, the tenant purchase program will have enabled about 4,000 tenants and sharecroppers to buy their own farms.

"This splendid repayment record indicates that the program for helping tenants to become farm owners has been established on a sound, self-liquidating basis," commented Dr. W. W. Alexander, Farm Security administrator. "There is every prospect that every penny advanced on the program eventually will be returned, with interest, to the federal treasury."

Goldsboro, N. C., News-Argus
June 5, 1939

Uncle Sam Buys Farm For LaGrange Negro

Joseph F. Mills, 53, LaGrange Negro, is the first to receive a government check for the purchase of a farm under the tenant purchase activities of the Farm Security Administration. The program is now operating in Lenoir and Jones counties. Efforts may be made to extend it to Wayne county next year. Mills received a check for $6,000.

He is the first farmer in Lenoir to have a tenant purchase loan approved, Joe L. Hinson, Lenoir county Farm Security supervisor, said today.

The Negro got an additional $1,090 which will be used for repairs on the farm.

Nine additional Lenoir applications for government aid are pending, and about six of these probably will be approved, Hinson said.

All equipment and livestock are paid for on the 100-acre farm that Mills has bought about four miles from Kinston. Farming operations will be carried on under supervision of the Farm Security office. Tenants acquiring farm through government aid are given 40 years to complete payment. In that period three per cent interest is charged, Hinson explained.

FSA Starts Internship Farm Co-op in Georgia

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Plans for an "internship" farm project to be conducted on land adjoining Flint River farms, Montezuma, Ga., are nearing completion, according to information released this week by the Farm Security office here.

The project, which has for its chief purpose the training of young farmers under typical farm situations, will be operated on a cooperative basis. Units vacated by farmers who have completed training there will be taken by new families.

Operated in this fashion the project will provide intensive training in co-operative methods for a large number of new families, enabling them within a reasonable length of time, to maintain themselves and conserve the land they use in accordance with accepted, progressive agricultural practice.

Within the 40 year period of operation planned for it, between three and four hundred families will receive basic training during their internship residence on this 40-unit tract. Each family will contribute its quota toward property payments. At the end of the 40 years, when payment is complete the land will be added to Flint River farms, the parent project where 102 Negro families are already established on an ownership basis.

Young married farmers from 13 to 30 years old are now being selected from among many applicants. Each family of three to five persons will be situated on a one-horse farm, in a comfortable five-room cottage, with five acres of land, poultry house, smoke-house, garden lot and cow barn. Cash crops will be raised under guidance of trained agricultural experts or land used cooperatively with labor on the coop farm and elsewhere on the project, paid for at the prevailing rate of 75 cents a day, plus dividends from the crops.

Existing housing will be used temporarily until new, modern farm homes are completed. Supervision and direction will be supplied by the personnel of the Flint River farms project, with the co-operation of state officials

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
February 26, 1939

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N. C. Farmers Apply For Vacancies On Project

FSA Scuppernong Unit Offers Farms To 50 Qualified Families

CRESWELL, N. C. — Applications for farmers wishing to move to Scuppernong Farms, the 12,000 acre Farm Security Administration project in Washington and Tyrrell Counties, will be received from now until November, 1939, T. W. Armstrong, community manager, announced here last week.

The project has 250 vacancies available for qualified white farmers and 20 for colored farmers. Individual farms are about 60 acres, with 40 acres of tillable land and new five-room frame houses with barns and out buildings. Rents on a 40-year purchase plan will average about $180 a year. Each farmer is expected to work his land under a farm plan, with a good rotation of crops.

For accepted farmers without enough stock and equipment, the Government will make loans to let the new men start off with enough to farm the land well and have a good program of family living. To qualify, farmers must be fairly young, not heavily in debt, with a reputation for hard work and for being good neighbors. All members of the family must pass a medical examination and the farmer and his wife must agree to work with the local management in carrying out their farming and live-at-home program.

COMPOSED OF FAMOUS OLD PLANTATIONS

The project is composed of many famous old plantations lying between Lake Phelps and the Albemarle Sound. These plantations were in a high state of cultivation many years ago, but under absentee ownership the drainage system had ceased to work satisfactorily. The Farm Security Administration improved the main drainage canals and cut new ones.

About 6,000 acres of fertile soil has been reclaimed. Sixty-five farms have been divided off and sold or leased to new settlers. Fifteen more of these farms are open for white farmers and five for colored farmers.

Two large farms ,one leased to the Scupprenong Mutual Association comprising 2,500 acres, and one to the Western Mutual Association for colored farmers with 1,600 acres, have vacancies for 20 white farmers and 15 colored farmers respectively. The two associations are making cash advances for work done by the day on the big farms. Money made from selling the crop will be divided at the end of the year in accordance with the time put in by the farmers.

Farms In County Helped By FSA

Improving the health of low-income families is one of the objectives of the Farm Security Administration in its rehabilitation program which in 1938 embraced 140 families in Montgomery County, it was pointed out yesterday.

In that connection William E. Elsberry, county supervisor for the FSA, reported that 92 sanitary facilities were installed on farms occupied last year by low-income families. Screens were installed in some of the houses.

"The importance of a safe water supply and effective screening cannot be stressed too much," said Supervisor Elsberry. "Good water is essential to health and, along with screening, is a basic step in our fight against typhoid, dysentery, malaria, and other diseases borne by water and insects. Such diseases, by their prevalence and long duration, have greatly reduced the ability of a large percentage of our rural families to make a living," he added.

"Ten wells supplying water for rehabilitation families in this county were dug or repaired last year. The new wells were located with the proper consideration of distance from dwellings and barn lots so as to make them convenient, also less apt to become contaminated.

Mr. Elsberry also pointed out that keeping the premises clean was emphasized as a factor in protecting the health of the family, as well as adding to the attractiveness of the surroundings. This has been followed up, he explained, by the planting of flowers, shrubbery, and grass about the house; and others who have not yet improved their premises in such manner plan to do so.

In connection with the sanitation activities of the FSA, which are carried out in general cooperation with the local county health unit, borrowers are shown the best methods of handling milk and other foods so the health of the family may be safeguarded, Mr. Elsberry further explained.

Tenants Are Repaying Government Loans, FSA Officials Announce

WASHINGTON, July 6—(ANP)—Tenants and sharecroppers who have borrowed government money to buy farms of their own are repaying their loans far in advance, the FSA reports in a statement released this week.

As the tenant purchase program neared the end of its second year of operation FSA announced that repayments on loans made under the Bank-head-Jones Farm Tenant act had totaled 165 per cent of maturities. Although only $103,033 was due as of March 31, 1939, the borrowers had already paid $138,978.

By the close of its second year of operation on June 30, the tenant purchase program will have enabled 7,000 tenants and sharecroppers to buy their own farms.

"This splendid repayment record indicates that the program for helping tenants to become farm owners has been established on a sound self-liquidating basis," commented Dr. W. W. Alexander, Farm Security Administrator. "There is every prospect that every penny advanced on the program eventually will be returned, with interest, to the federal treasury."

Philadelphia, Miss. Democrat
July 28, 1939

NEGRO UNIT OF FSA FOR HOLMES

Negro Community Near Lexington to be Built

LEXINGTON. Miss.—The acceptance of an option on a large portion of the properties of the Mileston Planting Co. and the W. E. Jones estate by the Farm Security Administration, has announced by officials of the Mileston company.

The property acquired consists of approximately 9350 acres located on U. S. Highway 49-E, at Milestone which is 20 miles west of Lexington. Reserved from the sale, according to officials of the company, is the homestead at Good Hope Plantation occupied by Mrs. Etta H. Jones.

According to officials of the FSA, it is intended to establish a negro community on the newly acquired property, providing opportunity for rehabilitation for selected negro families including many now living on the properties acquired in the purchase.

Resolutions of approval of Farm Security Administration's acquisition of the land in Holmes County for this purpose have been passed by leading civic organizations in the county.

FARM TENANCY WORK OUTLINED BY SPEAKER

T. B. Fatherree Gives Address At Agricultural Club

EXPLAINS CONDITIONS

FSA Regional Chief Says Plight Of Farmers In Mid-South Not So Bad As It Has Been Pictured By Some

Conditions in the mid South among farm tenants are not as bad as they have been pictured by reformists nor as good as they have been shown by others, T. B. Featherree of Little Rock told the Agricultural Club yesterday in stressing the value of the Tenant Purchase Program of the Farm Security Administration.

Mr. Fatherree, regional chief of Tenant Purchase, said "it has been increasingly difficult for the farmers to get enough money to make a down payment on a farm and it has become almost impossible to meet the heavy annual obligations."

Cites Farm Population

"There are about 2,800,000 tenants in the Nation. Of that number, it has been estimated that about 500,000 will inherit farms of one size or another. We have about 2,300,000 families who have little opportunity to purchase farms. Some of these families are not ready to own a farm, others would rather rent and others do not have the managerial abilities to own a farm.

"The largest portion of these tenants need assistance of one kind or another. In 1937 Congress passed the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Purchase Act, in an effort to give capable tenants, sharecroppers, farm laborers and former owners an opportunity to purchase farms. The Resettlement Administration, now the Farm Security Administration, was established to give assistance to the low income farm families. This was a start, but neither organization had funds enough to make more than just a start.

Tenants Reduced

"Experience has shown that it is better to start slow—to feel your way. That is what has been done by the Farm Security Administration and the Tenant Purchase Division. We have made some mistakes, which should have been expected in this new field of endeavor—the resettling and rehabilitation of farm families. We have had two years experience in Tenant Purchase and three years experience in handling the rehabilitation program of the Farm Security Administration.

"We believe that we have one way of reducing tenancy at little cost to the taxpoyers, we believe that we have found a way to improve the condition of tenants and to prepare them for home ownership in the future, if funds are available and if they desire to become landowners. We believe that we have brought some improvement in tenure conditions and learned that the farm lands in the South are able to support good houses and provide a comfortable living, if the tenants and owners get a fair return on their labor and investments," Mr. Fatheree said.

Mr. Fatheree spoke at the weekly club meeting at the Gayoso. A native of Clark County, Miss., Mr. Fatheree was graduated from Mississippi State and did graduate work at the University of Chicago

FSA Building Camps for Migratory Farm Workers

Experience with Farm Security Administration camps for migratory farm families in California has led to demands from other regions where there is an excess of seasonal farm workers for such camps.

An allocation of $900,000 has been made by the FSA for camps for migrant workers in Texas, and studies are being made of possible sites in other states.

The problem had centered in California, which drew thousands of middle west farm families driven out of their homes by the drought or by increasing mechanization. The camps were established to eliminate the worst features of whole families living along the roads in their automobiles, or in tents, without sanitary facilities of any kind.

In Texas, the need for such camps arises chiefly from the displacement of farmers by the use of tractors. One tractor is estimated to take the place of an average of about two families of tenants.

In spring, these families wind north and east to gather early vegetables and fruit crops. In midsummer and early fall they hustle to pick early cotton crops and follow the harvest north and west. With the new year, they pack up their possessions and head south again to reenact their quest for a living.

Homeless and suffering from privation, these people are susceptible to the diseases that grow from a squatter existence—hookworm, pellegra, dysentery, and the ills that result from malnutrition and the lack of sanitary facilities.

Sanitary temporary shelters safe guard the health of the migrant workers and the welfare of the communities in which they camp. In appearance, these camps are not unlike tourist camps. Tent platforms are laid out in groups. Each group has access to a first-aid room, child clinic, garages, incinerator, shower baths, and sanitary units.

95% Of Negro Farmers In South, FSA Report Reveals

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — City folk give little attention to facts and figures about farm life in the United States, especially among the Negro population. But it is astounding to know that farming is both a business and a way of life for half of all Negroes in America. Furthermore, 95 per cent. of all Negro farm operators in the United States live in the southern states, and more than three-fourths of these are tenants.

Farm tenants, according to the Farm Security administration, fall roughly into three classes.

1. Sharecroppers, who contribute labor only, receiving in return a share of the crop.

2. "Third and fourth" tenants, who supply equipment and bear some managerial responsibility and receive larger shares of the crop according to their contribution of feed, fertilizer and equipment, a third of corn and a fourth of the cotton being a common rental.

3. "Standing renters," who rent the land outright, paying for its use either in cash or produce.

In the South, one half of all sharecroppers are Negroes. The number of Negro sharecroppers exceeds the number of whites in Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, with the latter state having three and one half times as many Negro as white sharecroppers.

Fully half of the Negro children growing to manhood and womanhood on Southern farms face the drudgery and neglect typical of most croppers' children of any race. Chief among the evils which the poor man on the farm—small owner, tenant or laborer—has to face are poor housing, high mortality, insecurity and debt.

Bad housing and sanitation are reflected in hookworm and anemia. Faulty diets result in the dread pellagra. The yearly toll from death and disease add to the burden of indebtedness, while beneath all these hurtful conditions lies the menace of insecurity, crippling both landlord and tenant.

The figures on the farm tenancy in 14 states in the South reveal interesting facts. There is no relation between the number of owners, operators, tenants or croppers. In some states the croppers outnumber others, but in other states the croppers form the smaller group. Mississippi is an exception, having as it does a number of croppers double that of Georgia, and Arkansas three times the number in other states.

VIRGINIA IN LEAD

In the matter of farm ownership, Virginia pridefully takes the lead, showing a 6,000 majority over its nearest competitor, Mississippi. Tabulated, the figures show the following results:

Owners	185,166
Operators	814,227
Tenants	629,070
Croppers	380,855
Total farmers, (Negro)	2,009,318

This figure represents the individual heads of families in the 14 Southern states among Negro farmers, and is equal to the number of "farms" operated in that section by Negroes.

The total figure for the number of Negroes on farm lands in these same states shows that there are 4,494,958 individuals on these farms, or two and a fraction over per farm, a very low figure.

FSA SPENDS MILLIONS ON SOUTHERN FAMILIES

Hundreds Of Tenants Have Been Financed On Farms

MISSISSIPPI RUNS HIGH

Acreage Increase and Greater Value Shown In Second Year Of Operation — More Than 7000 Expected This Year

By GEORGE MORRIS

From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—During the two years in which the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act has been in operation every Southern State with the exception of Virginia and Maryland has benefited in excess of a million dollars, the Farm Security Administration announced today.

Figures Given

During the past two years 541 Alabama farmers were loaned $2,172,977, or an average of $4017, for the purchase of farms averaging 115 acres. In Arkansas, 425 farmers availed themselves of the opportunty to borrow $1,727,284 for the purchase of farms averaging 112 acres at an average price of $4064. In Mississippi, 630 farmers borrowed $2,239,026 with which to purchase farms averaging 99 acres at on average price of $3554. In Tennessee, 262 farmers borrowed $1,466,360 for the purchase of farms averaging 130 acres at an average price of $5597.

Total loans made by the Farm Security Administration aggregated $33,339,684, for an average of $5394 per farmers. Farms acquired by tenants averaged 134 acres, but the average varies greatly as to states. Except for Rhode Island, where only one loan was made, the lowest average was 43 acres in California, where irrigation makes small farming profitable.

Loans Run Higher

During the second year of the program loans ran a little higher, farms were somewhat bigger and more improvements were made than during the first year. Loans for the second year averaged $5561 for an average of 136 acres. First year loans averaged $4999 for an average of 130 acres. First year borrowers spent 18 per cent of their loans for improvements. Second year borrowers spent 24 per cent.

Congress provided for a slow, experimental start for the program with $10,000,000 for the first year, $25,000,000 for the second and $40,000,000 for the current fiscal year. Applications are now being received from all parts of the country for loans. The Farm Security Administration expects more than 7000 loans will be made this year.

Lexington, Miss. Advertiser
July 27, 1939

Negro FSA Project On Huge Delta Tract

The acceptance of an option on a large portion of the properties of the Mileston Planting Company and W. E. Jones Estate by the Mississippi Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, the affairs of which are administered by the Farm Security Administration, was announced today by officials of the Mileston Planting Company. The property acquired consists of approximately 9350 acres located on U. S. Highway 49 E, at Mileston, which is some 20 miles west of Lexington, Miss. Reserved from the sale, according to officials of the company, is the homestead at Goodhope Plantation occupied by Mrs. Etta H. Jones.

According to officials of the FSA, it is intended to establish a negro community on the newly acquired property, providing an opportunity for rehabilitation for selected negro farm families, including many of the negro families now living on the properties acquired in the purchase.

The response of leading citizens of Holmes and adjoining counties to the announcement of the FSA's plans for the new development assures the full support from the local people for the project. Resolutions of approval of the Farm Security's acquisition of the land in Holmes County for this purpose have been passed by leading civic organizations in the county, and many letters commending the FSA for establishing the project have been received by state and regional officials of that government organization from leading business leaders and planters of the county.

FSA WILL DISTRIBUTE $600,000 TO FARMERS

Subsistence Loans To Be Granted In Mississippi

10-6-39

29 COUNTIES STRICKEN

Effort Made To Furnish Feed Crops For Winter Grazing In Sections Where Rain And Drouth Took Toll

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 5.—Distribution of $600,000 in livestock subsistence loans in 29 Northeast Mississippi counties where crops were ruined by rain and subsequent drouth will begin Monday by the Farm Security Administration, Director M. T. Aldrich said today.

Loans will be based on the units of stock and will be made in an effort to furnish feed crops for Winter grazing.

"The program is designed to offer credit to the farmers who cannot secure it from other agencies," Mr. Aldrich explained. "We aren't competing with the banks—they are not in position to loan money on the basis which we intend to do."

Participating Counties

Counties listed for participation in the program are Alcorn, Attala, Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, De Soto, Grenada, Itawamba, Kemper, Lafayette, Lee, Lowndes, Marshall, Monroe, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Prentiss, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union, Webster, Winston and Yalobusha.

Unofficial estimates of the crop losses was placed at $10,000,000, with 100,000 farm families said to be affected.

Recently, over 34,000 FSA grants totaling $453,000 were made in the stricken counties to enable farmers to plant Fall grain to replace feed crops lost in Spring floods.

Loans Being Repaid

Mr. Aldrich stated that "even in the face of drouth, hail and excessive rains that have wiped out crops in an large number of Mississippi counties, loans which were made by the FSA are being repaid on maturity."

A total of $440,000 in repayments of regular loans was collected prior to Oct. 1, Mr. Aldrich said. This figure is in excess of collections for any other year "up to the present," he declared.

Fayette County Farmers Hold Mass Meeting

OXFORD, Miss., Oct. 5.—Eight hundred Lafayette County farmers swarmed into the courthouse here today to attend a mass meeting for a discussion of the disastrous crop conditions facing the county.

"Give us corn," farmers faced with the loss of their livestock through lack of feed, implored the Surplus Commodity Division.

Worse Than in 1933

Ransom Aldrich of Michigan City, president of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, described conditions in the Northeast Mississippi counties where crops were destroyed by rains and flood last Spring as "being much worse this year than in 1933."

"We at least had crops then, even though we couldn't sell anything," Mr. Aldrich said. "This year we have nothing to sell."

"So far as making available immediate work," Mr. Aldrich informed the farmers, "the Work Progress Administration has turned us down."

Organization Stressed

Discussing the work of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Mr. Aldrich stressed the importance of maintaining a farm organization for the purpose of demanding parity prices and for the farmers themselves to secure their own economic welfare.

Two hundred Lafayette farmers renewed their pledge to the Lafayette County Farm Bureau with hundreds of others signifying their intention of joining within the next few days. State Senator H. L. Davis is president of the local organinzation.

M. R. Smith, county agent, presided at the meeting this morning.

By a show of hands it was found that over 90 per cent of the farmers present this morning had less than 20 per cent of their normal crops.

Charles McNeill, manager of the Mississippi Federation of Co-operatives, gave a complete sketch of the organizations of farmers, stressing their importance in the economic life of the farm people.

Farm Security Workers Hold Second Annual Conference At Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Fisk University, Tells Of Problems Of Tenant, Sharecropper

Welcome Extended By W. T. Williams

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Oct.—(ANP)—The second annual study conference for Farm Security Professional Workers got off on a running start Monday, Oct. 2 at Tuskegee Institute with 34 members registered for the first session and which continue dthrough October 14.

The conference was directed by Giles A. Hubert, Agricultural Economist with the Rehabilitation Division, Farm Security Administration, at Washington, D. C. Mrs. Constance E. H. Daniel was in charge of registration.

Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Fisk University, on Tuesday night addressed the F. S. A. seminar. He gave the background and framework for the present day picture of Tenancy. Dr. Johnson stated that the plantation was not merely an economic or social organiation but a culture itself, a system of living that had evolved out of the exigencies of environment. He stated that in this system the economic family versus the romantic family had resulted in a plantation code of respectability regarding marriage, separation and divorce, illegitimacy and mixed families. Dr. Johnson declared that the plantation structure was in a stage of final collapse.

As a result of (1) Collapse of cotton as a staple cash crop; (2) Continuous land losses through erosion; (3) Introduction of machinery; (4) wide-spread diversification and (5) Negro migration.

Other seminar speakers scheduled were Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, Washington; President F. Hubert, Georgia State College Dr. F. D. Patterson, Dr. Will W Alexander, Farm Security Administration; Miss Frances Van Hal Holland (Visiting handicraft expert); Mr. Samuel McMillan, regional farm management advisor Texas; Thomas N. Roberts, project manager, Soil Conservation Service, Land Utilization Project, Tuskegee; Giles A. Hubert, agricultural economist, Rehabilitation Division, Farm Security Administration, Washington; and Mrs. Constance Daniel. Information Division Farm Security Administration Washington. D. C.

Suggests Research Centers

Tuskegee Needs Million Yearly For Research

10-23-39

TUSKEGEE —(ANP)— The greatest need of the South today is intellectual leadership, declared Dr. Will W. Alexander, Farm Security chief, speaking here last week.

In a final address to FSA workers gathered here for a two week's study conference, Dr. Alexander pictured the national problem and especially the South's problem as one of human relations standing still while industry forged ahead.

To help solve its social problems there should be ten research centers working the whole Southern area, the FSA chief asserted. Deploring the lack of "a single first-class university with first-class research facilities within the borders of the south," Dr. Alexander declared.

"Tuskegee institute needs a million a year for research. The kind of thing we need won't get done at Harvard, or Cornell or Yale.

"While we are living in an age of combines, our human relations are at the age of the mowing scythe," said the FSA head, who predicted changes in social and economic fields "as "revolutionary as those which have taken place in the field of mechanics."

He expressed the belief that the machine age has gone "as far as it is good for it to go without pause for adjustment," citing the displacement of thousands of agricultural workers by a handful of men operating tractors, combines, drills and gang plows.

Answering his own question, "Where are these workers, now" Dr. Alexander said that they were probably among the hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers whom FSA is trying to adjust through its rehabilitation program.

POKES RIDICULE

The problem of adjusting population to resources, which is now challenging national attention has existed since the beginning of the republic, he declared.

Poking mild ridicule at "shocked" public reaction to any suggestion of subsidy, Dr. Alexander pointed to the westward movement of frontiers over national lands as the most expensive of all subsidies.

"The fact of the business is that in our original subsidy we gave away the richest country that ever was," he declared, asserting that the subsidy of Farm Security was an old principle applied to a situation where "the rural population is piling up with no place to go—no more subsidies in the form of frontiers—no more dollar-and-a-quarter-an-acre land."

Negro migration to the North was in fact part of a general rural migration to industry, forced by the

disappearance of land frontiers said the Administrator. Mechanization of industry, he asserted, destroyed the industrial frontier and left the country with a great unabsorbed population at a time when world markets were at lowest ebb with no prospect of improvement.

OLD COTTON CULTURE

The old cotton culture of the south was blamed for many of its ills.

"I don't believe God ever meant people to live on soil as cotton farmers in the south have lived on it," said Dr. Alexander, who described cotton cultivation as "a set of unreal motions joined to intellectual paralysis."

"The men who sells the fertilizer and the man who gins the cotton are the only ones who gets anything out of it. The rest — black and white—are slaves to it," he declared.

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Farm security workers, said their chief, need to get underneath and boost morale. "You've got to make your people believe—not in what the soil does now, but in what it can be made to do. It will be better for the south if we smell more manure piles and less magnolias. The soil is with us if you'll go with it. The people are the same. Feed white and colored in the south for two generations and you won't know them."

Voicing the opinion that the FSA program would go on, whether or not the Farm Security Administration went on, Dr. Alexander held that the nation's only safety lay in its strength in terms of intelligence health and human resourcefulness

STUDY CONFERENCE OF FSA LAUDED BY GILES A. HUBERT

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Almost all of the attendants were unanimous in declaring the conference beneficial. It was the first time the majority of the workers has any concept of the magnitude of the whole project and of the aims behind their work.

Learning the philosophy of the Farm Security administration and knowing the general program of the organization and where their jobs fitted into the whole, was a profitable experience for the workers.

In studying the possibilities of cooperatives and what could be accomplished through them, workers were able to get information unavailable in schools and colleges they had previously attended.

"This was a valuable 'Inservice training program" to step up the personnel to the job," said Mr. Hubert.

Continuing, he said:

"In view of the changing conditions in the South are making differentials in farm management, credit and even in the philosophy of the South. The Negro must keep up with these things or they will fare worse since they are a marginal people. And strange to say, some of the benefits that apply to the Negro also apply to the white farmers of the South and they are quick to take advantage of them."

Facetiously speaking of his office as a job in "rural social engineering," Mr. Hubert outlined the progress being made and his hopes for future development.

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The two Negroes, George and Sarah Howard, residing in Dallas county, Alabama, fled the county following the incident which was reported through channels to the Washington office. Within three days time, the Howards were as far from the scene of the assault as their meager funds would carry them.

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However, they were located by government agents who saw their condition and promptly moved them to a hospital and arranged for the medical attention they so badly needed. Meanwhile, the official investigation moved into action and it developed that Caine admitted engaging in a dispute with the two, charging self defense.

On Oct. 23, some dispute arose with the Howards and Caine as the principals. As a result, the two Negroes sustained a beating which necessitated hospital treatment. Afraid and unable to secure attention for themselves, they fled the county. As a result of the findings of the investigation, Caine has been suspended from office pending decision as to further disciplinary action. All information obtained by FSA investigators will be turned over to state and federal officials for further investigation.

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Bad Conditions Deplored At Little Rock Meeting

From The Commercial Appeal Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, Nov. 16.—Attacking conditions which have retarded Southern progress, national leaders of the Farm Security Administration told a statewide FSA meeting here today that "rural families must be given an opportunity to earn a decent living, if Democracy is to survive."

Dr. W. W. Alexander, national FSA administrator, pointed out that the Department of Agriculture, which has devoted many years to crop improvement, is not "thinking in terms of helping the rural families."

Help for Children

Miss Doris Porter, Washington assistant chief of the Home Management Division, said that the future of the South and the Nation lies in what we are able to do with and the opportunities that we are able to give the children.

"We have a fertile field in the future generation because the older people are ambitious for their children—they want to prevent them from suffering the same hardships and handicaps they have had. We in the South need to do all we can to eliminate the inferiority complex."

People Not Crops

Dr. Alexander stressed that "America is changing its way of thinking about agriculture—that it is thinking today of people instead of how to make two blades of grass grow where one had been growing." He said in past years the agriculture leaders have done much for crops, but have not given much consideration to the people.

"This new way of thinking of agricultural improvement will bring about revolutionary things, but not a revolution. The changes will be made another way. Old ideas and plans, which handicap the people—things that prevent farmers from having a more comfortable living threaten their security will be toppled. It is all going to mean that we are going to build a greater rural life and better Nation," Dr Alexander said.

FSA Gives Farmers New Hope

Giles Hubert Explains Work Of Fed'l Agency

Stating that the Farm Security Administration has given new hope to the colored farmer in America, Giles Hubert, a representative of the federal agency explained its work to an enthusiastic group of Atlanta University School of Social Work in the assembly room at the institution Tuesday night. The lecture was the second of a series of three being delivered at the school this week.

The Farm Security Administration, according to Mr. Hubert, concerns itself with rural rehabilitation, sponsorship of projects and a tenant purchasing program.

In the work of rural rehabilitation, loans of from $150 to $350 are made to tenants who form a joint bank account with the local farm supervisor and spend an allocated sum monthly. Through a 3 percent interest charge and long terms, the tenants can stay out of the clutches of the "shark" commissaries and accumulate money out of small incomes over the years. The borrowers in this group represent the lowest strata of the farm income group.

The speaker revealed that 116,388 rehabilitation loans have been made and that 24,290 or 20.6 percent of them have been to Negroes. He said that the participation by Negroes is increasing and that in Mississippi this year 54 percent of the loans have been made to colored tenants.

In the tenant purchase division where loans are made to a more substantial group than in the rural rehabilitation program, 18 percent of the 25,000 loans made have been to colored. The tenant purchase loans, available through appropriations of the Bankhead-Jones Bill, are made to qualified persons selected by a local committee after recommendation of the county farm worker. When a person is approved for a loan, proper farm land is selected and a loan made for a 40-year period. The tenant, with his equipment and repaired or new house, begins work and repays the loan through a variable payment plan, which allows him to pay in accordance with the actual farm income for the year, considering production and price.

Mr. Hubert recommended the projects that are being sponsored by the FSA, saying that they give the Negro an opportunity to develop his capacities and services beyond the opportunity in the ordinary white-controlled community. He said there were 32 projects in the country in which Negroes have a part, ten of them being all-Negro. The projects provide a place where all who live there may participate in selling and servicing. Some 1,185 homes of the 5,831 homes on the projects are inhabited by Negroes, it was revealed. Co-operative enterprises, such as gins, stores, etc., allow for savings and dividends to members. These are more and more being realized and that Negroes in the communities, such as gins, individuals are being bettered is

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Will Negro Tenants In Louisiana Be Helped By FSA Loans This Year?

By RICHARD H. THOMAS

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 31—Announcement by the Farm Security Administration that an increased appropriation will allow for an increased number of loans to tenant farmers, are met with wonder and hope by Negro tenant farmers in Louisiana, who have been refused benefits in the past. FSA officials claim that after a three-year experiment, the program of granting tenant farmers loans to buy their own plots is a success. But few Negro tenants in Louisiana have been granted loans because of the inability of the national agency to reach them. In West Feliciana, the La. farmers charged, parish officials refused FSA aid because Negroes would be benefited. Negroes who pay yearly rentals of $85 to $100 and who maintain their own equipment, could have easily qualified for the loans had they been given a chance.

In Evangline Parish, Negroes who dared their threats were told that they knew of no such loans were intimidated when they attempted to apply for loans. Those that they requested. In St. Landry Parish a few Negroes were given loans, but because of a poor season had to chance their equipment and stock to get loans for the next year.

FSA announces that their first appropriation amounted to $10,000,000 and this year they are granted $40,000,000. In the past one out of twenty-four loans could be made to the applications on hand. They say that 7,000 loans will be made this year against 1,800 the first year and 4,300 the second. There are two types of loans, tenant loans which are for 40 years at 3 per cent, the average loan is $5,000, and the rehabilitation loan which is for five years at 5 per cent for equipment and supplies.

FLEXIBLE FARM LEASE

Improved Help for Tenant and Owner

Farm Security Administration has distributed within the past year 1,000,00 copies of its written lease form designed to improve rental arrangements between farm tenants and landlords. Both have applied in large numbers for this "Flexible Farm Lease" which is intended to take the place of oral agreements that still prevail in many sections of the country.

The lease form is designed to encourage statements of landlord-tenant agreements in clear-cut terms and minimize the misunderstandings that arise from word-of-mouth agreements.

The "rental rates" clause carries a suggested form for stating exactly the share of each crop or the cash payment the tenant is to give the landlord.

The "improvement compensation" clause in the lease form provides for an impartial sharing of responsibility for property improvements—both permanent and removable. The amount of compensation the tenant is to get for improvements he makes on the landlord's property during his tenancy has often caused disagreements under oral leasing.

Another matter of concern to the landlord and tenant is the annual renewal of their contract. Leasing from year to year is a prevalent tenure practice. In many cases, Farm Security Administration officials say, this procedure works to the disadvantage of both parties. Tenants hesitate to initiate crop rotations; landlords hesitate to make changes or repairs in buildings which may not be needed by succeeding tenants.

To provide for such cases the "Flexible Farm Lease" contains an "automatic renewal" clause. This clause in effect causes the lease to remain in full force until either party wishes to terminate his contract.

Experience has shown that the use of a lease of this kind makes for better protection of the landlord's property and for more security for the tenant and his family.

FSA Reports Farm Tenant Loans in 10 Percent Rise

WASHINGTON.— (ANP) —Final Farm Security administration figures on farm tenant loans to Negroes for 1938-39 show an increase of 10 percent in the proportion of Negro to white loans over figures published earlier in the season, and an increase of 4.4 percent over last year's figures.

The 722 farm-tenant loans—23 perecent of the total—made to Negro farm tenants and sharecroppers during 1938 and '39 bring the total of these loans to 987.

Through these long-term loans a limited number of non-owning farm operators are enabled to step from sharecroping and other forms of tenancy into ownership.

The loans are made each year in certain counties of each state, designated acording to the prevalence of tenancy. The total number of loans is determined by the funds appropriated for this purpose under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant act of 1937.

Appropriation of $40,000,000 for the current fiscal year 1939-40, after deducting the customary 5 per cent for administration, leaves $38,000,000 for loans to all eligible borrowers.

It is estimated that a total of 7,000 loans (including both Negro and white) can be made in about 1,290 of the nation's more than 3,000 counties during 1939 and 1940.

This is an increase of 560 counties over the number designated for loans during the period 1938-39.

For the 14 southern states, this year's $38,000,000 has been allocated as follows by the secretary of agriculture, on the basis of farm population and prevalence of tenancy as set forth under Title I of the Bankhead-Jones act.

Farm security's more extensive short-term rehabilitation loans, made to small owners as well as to tenants, have benefitted approximately 50,000 Negro farmers living in every state of the union but eight in the extreme northeast and northwest.

An exhaustive study of rehabilitation borrowers throughout the country, which will be completed after all the crops are harvested, will show in detail the effect of these loans on the lives of farm security borrowers.

FSA Brings New Deal to Starving Farm Areas, Ought to Be Extended

By Ernest Moorer

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—While armies of millions men are being hurled at each other in the Old World a different sort of army is mobilizing here in America—an army of millions of homeless men, women and children, victims of the collapse of the nation's farm economy.

Out of the dust bowl of what was once the bread-basket of America they are rolling westward in jallopies to form an army of migrant labor at starvation wages for the big landlords of California.

In the South where they have no place to go they form long, hopeless queus at the home relief and surplus commodities bureaus. Their plight threatens to become a mass disaster since a Tory congress destroyed what little security they had through WPA.

But in the midst of this there is one federal agency, operating with limited funds, misunderstood, confined in its work to small and scattered areas that is bringing to thousands of farm families their first message of hope in a generation.

Furthermore, it is bringing before the nation proof that, given a little help, given a half-way decent break, these people can help themselves and can build a better system on the ruins of the old.

The agency is the Farm Security Administration.

AID TO DESTITUTE

The FSA is an agency of the Department of Agriculture, limited in its scope to aiding those who are so destitute that they can get no help from any other source.

It makes rehabilitation loans, averaging around $400 per family at 5 per cent interest. It has made about 400,000 of these loans, 50,000 of them to Negro sharecropper or tenant families in the South, and reports that more than 80 per cent of the loans are being repaid on schedule.

It enables renters, farm laborers and sharecroppers to become established as small farm owners through long-term loans payable over a period of 40 years.

It encourages cooperation.

Before giving a picture of the FSA at work, it will be well to examine some of its limitations.

One of the greatest of these is that funds available under the Bankhead-Jones tenancy act, which permits tenants to eventually become owners, are so limited that only a few thousand loans have been made at all, and of these less than 300 to Southern Negro families.

Dr. Will W. Alexander, head of the FSA, once expressed a graver fear. He said:

"It may be that we are making a mistake in setting up farmers, one at a time, and scattering them about on individual tracts of land. I, myself, am inclined to think that we may be setting them up in currents they cannot swim against."

ENDANGERED BY REACTION

Here is the crux of the problem. It means that unless the New Deal is maintained and extended; that if the nation is ever again engulfed in Hoover reaction the foundation of hope built by the FSA will be destroyed and the hundreds of thousands of farmers will be plunged backward into even greater hopelessness.

In addition, however, to rehabilitation loans to individual sharecroppers and tenants, the FSA has set up a number of "group farms," or cooperatives. At present it is purchasing 25 plantations in the Mississippi Delta. In the South there are already 15 of these projects with white and Negro families.

One of the best examples is the Gees Bend project in Alabama. In the area 100 miles south of Mobile where the 10,000 acre farm is located the FSA made a survey. It found that the average net worth, that is average total wealth, of 14,000 farm families was $3.06.

Can you imagine what that means? Think of a windowless shack, the property of an absentee landlord. In the shack lives a Negro family of five and all the property inside worth only $3.06.

Gees Bend Plantation, three miles from Camden on the Alabama River, was the property of a single landlord when FSA took it over. The 100 families who lived there were the great grandsons and great granddaughters of the slaves of Charles Gee.

Life on the plantation changed almost not at all for the people in the 100 little log shanties when the Civil War ended, when old Charles Gee died and his nephew, Mark Pettway took over.

The only difference was that before the war they were owned by the man in the big house. After the war they were owned by the man who ran the plantation store. The legal paper was different since they were no longer held by a chattel deed. But there was little difference in being held by the storekeeper's books.

The years and the seasons brought only a repetition of old suffering. Periodically the Alabama swept over its banks and took every growing thing in the fields before its sweep.

Hunger was the rule. There was a little surcease from it 20 years ago when soldiers were again marching across Europe. The war sent cotton prices soaring. But you hardly had time to buy a few cheap little things to make life easier before depression set in and, like the flood, swept everything before it.

The agents of the "furnish merchants" came and carted off anything that still had value. This was in 1932. The Red Cross sent a pitiful little bit of salt meat and flour. Starvation gripped Gees Bend.

Furthermore, the owner now was a Mr. Van de Graaf who lived "up north" somewhere. Nobody had ever seen him. He sent word that he could not supply funds for tools or guarantee the pay of the "furnish merchants." There was no money in cotton in 1932 at 5 cents a pound. When there is no money in cotton the men and women who cultivate it and the men and women and children who pick it must starve. That is the law of plantation economy.

U. S. TAKES OVER

The predecessor of the Farm Security Administration, the Rural Rehabilitation Administration, took over Gees Bend in 1935. A lump sum loan was made for improvement of the whole place. One of the first things done was the building of 80 new homes, trim white frame buildings, fairly snug and with plenty of light and fresh air. Soon there was a school.

Don't misunderstand. This isn't a gift from the government. The families have to pay for it and are paying for it. The point is that they are glad to pay and are able to pay because, in this limited area, the FSA has broken the grip of the plantation system. The people have a chance to do things for themselves for the first time in their lives.

So as the army of hopeless families trails westward across America and the cues of waiting men and women lengthen at the relief bureaus in the South, here at Gees Bend, Alabama, is a beacon to America. The message of the 100 families of Gees Bend is:

"We can survive; we can win our way to a better life if we are given only half a decent break." But it is a message that the tories will move heaven and earth to prevent its reaching the American people. That's why you have heard so little about the real work of FSA.

Quitman, Ga., Free Press
September 21, 1939

Colored Families Can Surplus Foods

Miss Alice Donovan, home management superviser of the local Farm Security office reports that not only are the white farmers, operating under the supervision of the local office, making remarkable progress in their farm program, but a number of the colored farm families have worked out a live at home program which is worthy of praise.

Three colored families in particular, residing in the Dry Lake section, are facing the new year with a pantry well stocked with canned fruits, meats and vegetables. They are among the 185 rural rehabilitation, or renters operating under the supervision of the Farm Security office here, with Jesse Jackson as the director.

Jim D. Coley and his wife, Essie, started off this year with only 3 dozen jars. They purchased 8 dozen additional jars and as the seasons change and the canned food is consumed, they turn in and refill jars with preserved products which will carry them through the winter. They now have 178 quarts of canned vegetables, fruits and meats to fall back on for this winter.

At the beginning of the season Essie and Jim bought a pressure cooker and in addition to canning their family needs Essie has canned about 18 dozen quarts for friends and neighbors. They keep a growing garden at all times and at this time are fixing to put in their fall greens. When hog killing time comes around Essie will can spare-ribs, backbone and sausage. In addition to this they will make up several barrels of syrup, have plenty of potatoes, chickens and dried vegetables and fruits.

Other families are carrying out this live-at-home program with remarkable success. Dave J. Spencer and his wife, Gussie, have 120 quarts of canned food to help them through the winter, have their own meat, lard, potatoes, chickens. Gussie has never put up canned food before and is planning to have her own pressure cooker by next spring. Both the Co-

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Farm Security Administration Families Learn How To Keep Well











PROTECTING·RURAL·HEALTH



The Farm Security Administration found that most failures among families on its program for giving low income farmers a new start resulted from illness—malaria, hookworm, pellagra, tuberculosis. Thousands of Farm Security Administration families now receive medical aid and health instruction through the Farm Security Administration medical care program provided for them in cooperation with local medical societies. Upper left: Nurse Lillie McCormick assists in an examination at Flint River Farms, Georgia. Lower left: mothers at Gee's Bend, Alabama, waiting for advice at the project clinic. Center: Nurse Annie Shamburg tells a young sufferer from pellagra how milk eggs and fresh vegetables will prevent and cure the disease. Upper center: gardens which provide an ample variety of protective foods are one of the few strings on Farm Security Administration loans. Upper right: baby's weight and diet are checked regularly at this clinic—forty miles from the nearest urban center. Lower right: many farm mothers have to leave the care of their babies to young children. Mothers are encouraged to bring these young helpers to the clinics for instruction in making beds, bathing the baby, and care of bottles. A doll is being used to illustrate how the baby should be handled.

Federal Camps Asked To Aid Negro Sharecroppers

Proposal Made to Dr. Alexander By H. L. Mitchell, Who Points Out Suffering of 75 Destitute Negro Families Now Living Near Poplar Bluff, Mo.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The Farm Security Administration has been asked to establish Federal camps for the alleviation of suffering among the thousands of displaced tenant farmers and sharecroppers forced into migrancy by mechanical farming, it was announced here this week.

The proposal was made to Dr. Will Alexander, Farm Security Administrator, by H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, of Memphis, Tenn., in a memorandum pointing out the suffering of the 75 destitute Negro families now subsisting on sub-marginal land near Poplar Bluff, Mo. 12-23-39

Mr. Mitchell, who will come here soon to assist in the preparation of annual National Sharecroppers Week in 1940, declared that the future holds little hope for the half-million families displaced during the last five years and urged the Federal Government to lend assistance.

The Poplar Bluff colony is facing starvation and death from exposure in their makeshift camp, the memorandum pointed out, and race prejudice against Negroes in that section makes it impossible for the colored workers to secure employment locally.

The union proposed that the Farm Security Administration construct a permanent labor camp to provide for 100 to 300 families initially, with two-and-one-half to five acres allotted to each family for raising subsistence crops and individual or collective bases.

"Fertile land can be purchased near enough to an agricultural and industrial center to permit these people to secure some employment throughout the year," the memorandum states. "A minimum rental based on the cost of constructing and maintaining the units, could be charged the occupants."

Dr. Alexander has not commented on the proposal.

Camps Sought For Destitute Farm Families

WASHINGTON—(SNS)—Farm Security Administrator Dr. Will Alexander has under consideration now a proposal for the establishment of Federal camps to absorb the thousands of displaced tenant farmers and sharecroppers who have been forced into migrancy by the advent of mechanical farming. The proposal was submitted in the form of a memorandum by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union of Memphis, Tenn., by H. L. Mitchell. union secretary, and includes as the first step the establishment of such a camp for the 75 destitute, most of them Negro, who are now subsisting on sub-marginal land near Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Declaring that "the future hold for raising food stuff." Because little hope" for the half-millio of racial prejudice existing in that families who have been displace section of Missouri, the colonists during the last five years, that all but two of the families of Southern Tenant Farmers Union which are Negro, find it almost called upon Dr. Alexander for impossible to secure employment "the development of a program locally, the Union charged. that will be more than just tem- The memorandum proposed that porary relief." It declared that the Farm Security Administration Poplar Bulff colonists "and thou- "construct a permanent labor sands like them are in much worse camp to provide for 100 to 300 such condition than many of the mi- families, with two and one-half gratory farm laborers who find to five acres alloted to each family occasional employment in the for raising subsistence crops, on West." 12-16-39 either an individual or a cooperative basis. Fertile land can be purchased near enough to any agricultural and industrial center to permit these people to secure some employment throughout the year. A minimum rental, based on the cost of constructing and maintaining the units, could be charged the occupants."

FACING DEATH

The Poplar Bluff colony, the Union declared, is "facing starvation and death from exposure in their makeshift camp. There is not enough land to provide for their needs and the soil is unsuited

FSA Workers Await 2-Week Conference At Tuskegee Ins't

Daily Record
9-18-39 Atlanta, Ga.

All Phases of Farm Security Work Will Be Discussed By Nationally Known Figures

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Professional personnel engaged in work under the supervision of the Farm Security administration will meet for a two weeks' conference at Tuskegee institute Oct. 2-14, according to an announcement from the office of Dr. Will W. Alexander. FSA administrator.

Two weeks of intensive work will take up regular periods of study and discussion on all phases of farm security work, lectures by specialists in the fields of rural sociology, economics, and rural health. Supplementing these regular periods of study and lectures will be ample bibliography for reference and research available to all participants.

Farm and home management, administration and supervision, the development and management of cooperatives, rural health and the history and problems of land tenure in the South will receive special attention, while rural Macon county will afford laboratory work in management problems.

Nationally known figures and authorities will address the conference, including Dr. Charles S. Johnson, director, department of social science at Fisk university; Dr. Arthur Raper, research secretary for the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Atlanta; Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, Georgia State Industrial college, Savannah; Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferrebee of Howard Medical school, and J. L. Reddix of Gary, Ind., who is now occupied with research in cooperative development among Negroes.

BOTH ARE AUTHORS

Both Dr. Johnson and Dr. Raper are authors of widely read studies on social and economic conditions in the South. Dr. Johnson's "Shadow of the Plantation" and Dr. Raper's "Preface to Peasantry" are standard works on rural sociology.

Brooks Hays, FSA legal expert, Miss Molly Flynn of the Resettlement division, Miss Doris Porter, home management administrator; Dr. Frederick D. Mott, medical officer, Washington office, and T. A. Prewitt, regional health specialists; J. Roy Allgyer of the cooperative section, and Giles A. Hubert, FSA management specialist, will have charge of discussion groups.

Dr. Will W. Alexander, Dr. George S. Mitchell, assistant administrator, Major John C. Walker chief of the Resettlement division; E. D. Morgan, director of the fifth farm security region, and Dr Frederick D. Patterson, Tuskegee's president, will take an active part in the conferences, which will be directed by Giles A. Hubert of the Resettlement and Rehabilitation division of farm security. Until recently, Mr. Hubert was with the social science staff of Dr. Johnson at Fisk.

TO COVER WIDE FIELD

In building the curriculum for the study conference, effort has been made to cover as wide as possible a field of interests without piling up too many courses. Because of the short time involved, course materials must be brief and selective in form and designed to be stimulative of further study and thinking rather than thorough and detailed in treatment. It is hoped that from these courses, students will receive hints and ideas which they can develop into helpful projects on their own initiative.

The courses are listed as follows: 1. Problems of Farm Management; 2. Problems of Home Management; 3. Problems of Administration and Supervision; 4. Cooperatives and Their Management; 5. Community Organizations; 6 Problems of Rural Health; 7. The South in Tenure History; 8. Seminar, devoted to two hours' evening discussions.

Through an appropriation of the FSA, required books not now in Tuskegee's library were purchased and will be available for the use of those attending the conference. They include many of the newest works on the subjects to be discussed and will form a valuable asset to the library at the school when the conference is ended.

F.S.A. Workers to Hold Two Weeks' Conference

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FSA to Give Short Course at Tuskegee

Tribune 9-23-39

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—A two-week short course designed primarily for Negro project managers, nurses farm and home management workers, and co-operative employees will be held here October 2 through 14 under the auspices of the Farm Security Administration, it was announced this week.

This course is designed to give these professional workers an opportunity to become oriented in the principals, policies, and program of the Farm Security Administration and to provide technical advice in phases of project and supervisory work where weaknesses have been noted.

Pioneer in Rural Living

The choice of Tuskegee Institute as the setting for this initial study conference has special significance. Under its late founder, Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee pioneered in the training of men and women for rural living, as opposed to the practice either of training them away from the soil, or leaving them untrained to eke out a dull and precarious existence from improvidently used land.

Tuskegee's present head, Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, was first associated with the institution as chief of its agricultural department, and the development of a satisfactory agriculture in Negro life holds his special interest.

It was to Tuskegee, and also to Hampton, that the Government turned for trained workers as the Extension Service came into existence. The live-at-home program which Farm Security is now emphasizing originated at Tuskegee. The relationship of ideas between this institution and the policies of the Farm Security Administration are so close, that even without the additional advantage of its conveniences for work and study, Tuskegee would have been a natural choice for the FSA personnel group to gather.

The proximity of the Prairie Farms project, the Tuskegee Land Use project (now operated by Soil Conservation Service) and the unusually large FSA case load in Macon County, surrounding the school, were also factors in the decision to hold this conference at Tuskegee Institute.

Giles A. Hubert, agricultural economist, rehabilation division of the FSA is director of the course and Mrs. Constance E. H. Daniel information division of the FSA is registrarar.

Dyess Colony Board Resigns; FSA Takes Over Management

By The A:

LITTLE ROCK, Nov. 22.—The resignation of the present directors of the Dyess Rural Rehabilitation Corp., operators of Dyess Colony, a 16,000-acre rural rehabilitation project in Mississippi County, and the transfer of their common stock to the Farm Security Administration was announced today.

The regional FSA office announcement said the transfer was the culmination of plans which had been in process of development since completion of construction on the project in 1937. It brought under management of the FSA all rural rehabilitation projects built with Government funds in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Oldest of Projects

Oldest of the rural rehabilitation projects in the country, Dyess was begun in 1934 by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and named for the late W. R. Dyess, former Arkansas ERA administrator. Since 1936, it had been controlled by a corporation with a Board of Directors headed by Floyd Sharp, state WPA administrator.

Dr. W. W. Alexander, national FSA administrator, today placed direction of the colony in the hands of a new board composed of T. Roy Reid, regional FSA director; E. B. Whitaker, assistant director; J. M. Holliday, regional FSA finance manager; H. G. Thompson, assistant state extension service director, and Mr. Sharp.

Roy D. Johnston was named project manager. For the past year he has been in charge of operations at Dyess, having been transferred to that position from the regional FSA office.

Few Changes Planned

Mr. Reid said no major changes in the operation of the colony were contemplated. A committee from the state and regional FSA office will be appointed to make a survey of operating methods.

Approximately 390 families now reside at Dyess. There are 500 dwelling houses, an office building, a 35-bed hospital, postoffice, four schools, bank, barber shop, machine shop, furniture factory and wood work shop and a printing shop.

Dyess Colony was the center of a political fight in the last Legislature when the Bailey administration unsuccessfully sought a legislative investigation of operations of the project.

The state originally was in charge of funds for the work on the colony

Farmers Prosper On Co-Operative Project; Sharecropping Faces Doom

LA FORGE, Mo., Dec. 1—There's chicken in every skillet, lots of canned food in the cellars and the 100 families of the 6,700-acre cooperative Re-Settlement project here are looking forward to a winter of plenty after the field crops are in.

Within two years this area, once despaired of as productive of nothing but cotton and poverty-stricken sharecroppers, has been transformed into a cooperative community of small farmers who are well on their way to a relatively high degree of prosperity.

The families, taken indiscriminately as they came by the Federal Farm Security Administration which loaned them money and supervised construction of the community, have rehabilitated themselves until they are now taxpayers on the same land on which most of them were destitute "croppers" two years ago.

Hans Baasch, supervisor of the project, says each family put up about 400 jars of foodstuff during the summer. He says the community's 2,000 acres of cotton will produce a yield of at least 1,500 bales, which will mean a minimum of $300 cash for each family.

Additional cash will come from the sale of surplus hogs and calves, from farm conservation benefit payments by the federal government, and dividends from the cooperative store, cotton gin and sire service. And there are no landlords to rob them of their earnings.

One reassuring condition that adds to the welfare of the group, Baasch says, is the absence of fear that the families will have to move in the spring—a fear that is ever-present with the shartcroppers.

Baasch says the project has encountered considerable opposition from large private landowners who see in the success of the community a threat to the sharecropper system. "But this method is the only solution for the sharecropper problem in the South," he says.

Intellectual Leadership Need of South, Dr. Will W. Alexander Says

TUSKEGEE, Ala.— (ANP) —The greatest need of the South today is for intellectual leadership, declared Dr. Will W. Alexander, Farm Security chief, speaking here last week.

In a final address to FSA workers gathered here for a two weeks study conference, Dr. Alexander pictured the national problem and especially the South's problem as one of human relations standing still, while industry forged ahead.

To help solve its social problems there should be ten research centers working the whole Southern area, the FSA chief asserted. Deploring the lack of "a single first-class university with first-class research facilities within the borders of the South," Dr. Alexander declared:

"Tuskegee Institute needs a million a year for research. The kind of thing we need won't get done at Harvard, or Cornell or Yale. While we are living in an age of combines, our human relations are at the age of the mowing scythe." said the FSA head, who predicted changes in social and economic fields "as revolutionary as those which have taken place in the field of mechanics."

He expressed the belief that the machine age has gone "as far as it is good for it to go without pause for adjustment," citing the displacement of thousands of agricultural workers by a handful of men operating tractors, combines, drills and gang plows.

FSA REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Answering his own question, "Where are these workers, now?" Dr. Alexander said that they were probably among the hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers whom FSA is trying to adjust through its rehabilitation program.

Negro migration to the North was part of a general rural migration to industry, forced by the disappearance of land frontiers, said the administrator. Mechanization of industry, he asserted, destroyed the industrial frontier and left the **country with a great unabsorbed** population at a time when world markets were at lowest ebb, with no prospect of improvement.

The old cotton culture of the South was blamed for many of its ills.

"I don't believe God ever meant people to live on soil as cotton farmers in the South have lived on it," said Dr. Alexander, who described **cotton cultivation as "a set of unreal motions joined to intellectual paralysis."**

"The men who sell the fertilizer, and the man who gins the cotton are the only ones who get anything out of it. The rest—black and white—are slaves to it," he declared.

FAILURE OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

Part of the failure of vocational agricultural education to meet existing needs, Dr. Alexander attributed to a half-hearted approach "like a trailor on the end of a big Packard. It's tied on to an educational system pointed at something else. They've built our agricultural buildings where the privies used to be," he complained.

Farm Security workers, said their chief, need to get underneath and boost morale. "You've got to make your people believe not in what the soil does now, but in what it can be made to do.

Voicing the opinion that the FSA program would go on, whether or not the Farm Security Administration went on, Dr. Alexander held that the nation's only safety lay in its strength in terms of intelligence, health and human resourcefulness.

A House of Cotton

The eyes of many interested in the future of the south are upon a duck-covered dwelling in Coffee county, Alabama. If this dwelling stands the test, the south may find a new outlet for its cotton surplus.

The cotton house is the latest experiment in the Farm Security Administration's constant search for ways to house poor families comfortably within their incomes. The big problem, it seems, is to house families with the buildings materials closest at hand. With this idea uppermost in mind, FSA engineers have begun many interesting experiments. They have built houses from pine, in the southeast; cedar, in the northwest; steel, in Tennessee, and desert dirt in New Mexico.

Now they are anxiously watching the house that is covered with cotton duck. This is the same material long used by the navy as a waterproof, sunproof, spotproof decking for ships. A family has been living in this dwelling for a month. But, as yet, the engineers are withholding judgment, because of blisters on the house. If the trial house warrants further experimenting, another may be tried.

Southerners should keep fingers crossed that this experiment with the cotton house proves really successful. A new outlet for surplus cotton will profoundly affect the economy of the south in a beneficial way.

IMPROVEMENT OF

FSA PURCHASE PLAN GROWS IN ARKANSAS

$1,943,008 Allotted For 1939-40 Program

480 FARMERS TO GET AID

21 Counties Will Be Added To Number Where Grants Already Have Been Made, Bringing Total To 710

From The Commercial Appeal
Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, July 15.—Allotment of $1,943,008 of 1939-40 Bankhead-Jones tenant purchase funds to Arkansas, an increase of 60 per cent over last year, will enable 480 more farm families to become landowners during the next 12 months, T. B. Fatherree, chief of tenant purchase, Farm Security Administration, said today.

"The increase will enable us to spread the tenant purchase program to approximately 21 additional counties, bringing the total number of counties in which the program operates to 70," said Mr. Fatherree. FSA supervisors have been instructed to begin taking applications for the new loans immediately.

427 Farms Purchased

"Under the new provisions of the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Purchase Act, the new counties will be allotted an average of 10 loans and the old counties an average of nine each. So far 427 farms have been purchased in Arkansas under the act.

"New tenant purchase counties in Arkansas are Lawrence, Poinsett, Phillips, Prairie, Lonoke, Jefferson, Chicot, Dallas, Madison, Johnson, Sebastian, Saline, Crawford, Perry, Searcy, Van Buren, Fulton, Sharp, Stone, Cleburne and Polk."

For the new counties Secretary of Agriculture Wallace will appoint in a few weeks county committees, who will investigate the applicants and recommend those which they believe should receive loans. The committees also will pass on the farms to be purchased and assist the FSA supervisors in other details.

Old Applications Continued

Mr. Fatherree said that applications will be accepted as long as funds are available. Persons who filed applications last year will not have to file again he said.

Mr. Fatherree said that landowners in the designated counties who have farms for sale should list their farms with the county FSA supervisor so that the prospective borrowers will know which farms are available. No loans will be made in a county unless satisfactory farms can be obtained at reasonable prices.

FSA Loans Help Farmer To Get Costly Services

THE Farm Security Administration recently reported that 128,856 farmers had obtained equipment or services they could not have obtained otherwise, through the use of Farm Security Administration group loans. These loans, available to groups of small farmers, permit them to obtain costly machinery and services they need to compete with large-scale farming, which is steadily increasing in some regions. By purchasing and using farm machinery in groups, small farmers can get equipment not available to them as individuals.

For instance, many small farmers who cannot economically use a tractor on their own farms alone, find that together with their neighbors they can easily purchase the tractor and keep it busy.

The types of services small farmers are getting include combines, silage cutters, purebred sires, cold-storage plants, bulldozers, and terracing equipment, syrup mills, hay balers, hatcheries, tractors, and canning, laundry, and sewing equipment.

The terms on these loans are based on the nature of the purchases the loans are to finance. Generally loans may be retired over a period of 5 years and bear, usually, 3 percent interest. They are available only to needy and low-income farmers, who cannot obtain adequate credit from any other source.

He Once Was Sharecropper; Won Plant To Prosper Title And Now He Gets FSA Post

(Picture on Page Three)

From The Commercial Appeal
Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, July 25.—A 1936 TriState winner in The Commercial Appeal's Plant To Prosper Competition, who this year became the owner of his own farm, today was appointed by Secretary Wallace to the Arkansas Advisory Committee of the Farm Security Administration.

He is John E. Shannon of Jonesboro, who was for years a sharecropper in Craighead County and who won the title of champion tenant farmer of the MidSouth in the Plant To Prosper Contest three years ago.

Mr. Shannon, who purchased a 40-acre farm in Craighead County this year, qualified for the sweepstakes award by winning first place in the Arkansas Tenant Division.

On rented land that year he made a net profit of $806 by diversified farming. His year's earnings were increased by $250 in prize money.

Hudson Wren, state FSA director, announced the appointment of Mr. Shannon along with that of W. H. Johnson of Fort Smith. They will fill vacancies created by the retirement of W. W. Campbell, Forrest City banker, and C. L. Paschal of Ratcliff.

Mr. Johnson is vice president of the Merchants National Bank of Fort Smith, chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Arkansas Bankers Association and a trustee of the Arkansas Polytechnic College of Russellville.

The two new appointees, with other members of the committee, will serve in an advisory capacity in the administration of the Bankhead-Jones Act and other phases of the FSA program.

Others on the committee are Fred Smith, Little Rock; Joe Hardin, Grady; Lawrence Cloan, Strawberry; Elijah Stephens, Blevins; Kelly Wilson, Monticello and John Glover, Lowell.

Shannon Honored

John E. Shannon of Jonesboro has been appointed by Secretary Wallace to the Arkansas Advisory Commission of the Farm Security Administration. The Commercial Appeal has reasons of its own for believing Mr. Shannon has been justly honored and for predicting that he will serve on the committee most usefully. His knowledge of farming problems is intimate and wide and for the best of reasons. For years Mr. Shannon was a sharecropper in Craighead County, and in 1936 he was champion tenant farmer of the MidSouth in the Plant To Prosper Competition. This year he has purchased his own 40-acre farm in Craighead County to climax a long and courageous farming career.

The story as indicated in the news columns of The Commercial Appeal on Wednesday morning was interesting, but of necessity it did not carry all the details of Mr. Shannon's history. We want, therefore, to call attention to the fact that he gave all his children high school and college training. A special tribute should go, too, to Mrs. Shannon and to the youngsters themselves, for the Shannons co-operated for the common good of all in a genuinely inspiring sort of way.

By and large the story of John E. Shannon and his family is one in the spirit of the finest American tradition of industry and honesty to achieve gratifying measures of success against no mean obstacles and handicaps. The Commercial Appeal joins Mr. Shannon's many other friends in congratulations on the well-merited recognition that has come to him, it confesses at the same time a warm sense of privilege in being able to feel that it was able to work with him to some extent and to make known his accomplishments.

BOON TO THE SOUTH

Despite the impressive work performed in the South by agricultural agencies under the New Deal many persons are still unfamiliar with perhaps the most significant program of all. It is being conducted by the Farm Security Administration, and its purpose is to rehabilitate and to educate American farm families. The ultimate view also is to end the tenant and share-cropping systems, but the FSA has been wise enough to realize that objective is far in the future.

Ernest K. Lindley, a columnist for The Washington Post and other newspapers, has summarized the achievements of the FSA. "Here," he says, "are 116,000 farm families in the South. Three or four years ago they were worth $451 per family. This, on the average, represented everything they owned —including farm equipment, furniture and clothes after their debts had been deducted.

"By the end of the 1938 crop years, the net worth of these 116,000 families had risen by a total of $35,000,000—or to $752 per family,after all debts had been deducted. Most of that $35,000,000 was invested in tools and equipment made by Northern industries.

"How did it happen? These families could not borrow money from the banks. They were not even suitable risks for the Farm Credit Administration, which helps to finance more prosperous farmers. Most of them, in fact, were on relief or in need of relief.

"What happened was this: The Farm Security Administration made small loans for equipment, mules, seed, etc. In tens of thousands of cases it worked out written leases under which tenants would have an incentive to improve the land and buildings. Most important, it sent people into the field to show these families how to raise something besides cotton, how to enrich the soil by crop rotation, how to produce and preserve for winter use a considerable part of their own food. (Better and more varied food, too, than many of them had known before.)

"Last year these families canned more than 23,000,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables for their own use — more than 200 quarts per family. Until FSA agents showed them how, many of these farm wives had never canned anything in their lives.

"Most of these families have been put on their feet. Many of them have been paying off their FSA loans more rapidly than the installments become due. FSA expects to recover, with interest, more than 80 per cent of the total amount it has put out in the South in rehabilitation loans."

Then Mr. Lindley describes another part of this program. He writes:

Here are 83 other Southern farm families, more fortunate than most of these 116,000. They were picked to live in the experimental farm community which FSA made out of a bankrupt cotton plantation in Georgia. Each has a good house and about 75 acres of land which he rents and may eventually buy. The community has its own store, cotton gin, and seed cleaner, and carries mule insurance. Instead of cotton alone, these farmers raise also tobacco, peanuts melons and live stock, as well as vegetables, fruits and poultry for their own use. For small monthly payments, they receive regular medical attention.

Most of these families were absolutely destitute when they got the chance to try their luck in this experimental farm community. They have been increasing their net worth — over and above all debt — by about $250 per family per year. The average family in the original group of 28 which have lived in the community since its beginning in 1935 now owns $232 worth of work stock, $115 worth of farm equipment, $267 worth of cattle, hogs and poultry, and $231 worth of home-raised food. The Government will get back most of its investment—not all, because the housing was a bit too expensive.

There are 83 of these experimental farm communities in the South. Many of them will pay for themselves in full; losses in others will have to be charged up to experimentation and to the high cost of houses. But the FSA has finally evolved a plan whereby a house can be built for about $1,100, and it is to be the model for future developments.

Dr. W. W. Alexander is largely responsible for the excellent work that has been accomplished. He believes, says Mr. Lindley, that the government could "profitably invest a billion dollars a year for many years to come in rehabilitating the Southern farmer. Profitably from every angle—the improvement of people, the improvement of land, the reduction of relief costs now and in the future, the increase of the national income and wealth—all in addition to the direct repayment to the government of most of the money invested. This is what the 'budget balancers' call an 'orgy of spending.' To me it looks like a sound business proposition."

FSA POLICY TO INCREASE NEGRO WORKER

WASHINGTON, July 27.—(AP)—Farm Security administration, one of the agencies of the department of agriculture which is doing constructive work throughout the South, has set as its definite policy the increase of Negro personnel wherever and whenever possible, in field work especially, throughout the regions it serves.

This statement was most emphatically made some time ago by Dr. W. W. Alexander and as a result there have been several additions to the field force which hopes that even more will be added.

As part of the program of one of the divisions, headed by Giles Hubert, tentative plans are being made for survey of the Negro communities in the areas under the supervision of the department to see just what can be done toward bringing them to a better standard than they now rate.

This is particularly true of the small areas where Negroes have been permitted to purchase land and settle in little groups throughout the South. At present there are quite a few of these isolated communities, and through Mr. Hubert's division, plans for their betterment are being discussed in the department.

A contemplated trip through certain sections of the area will reveal just what is needed and how it is to be done.

Rural Homes Of Cotton, Steel And Wood Constructed By FSA

FSA regional offices in Montgomery announced yesterday that contracts during the fiscal year, just ended, were awarded for construction of 284 specially designed low-cost rural homes in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. The average house cost $1,309.05.

According to E. S. Morgan, regional FSA director, 269 frame houses, 14 steel panel houses were erected; one dwelling was built of cotton. Mr. Morgan characterized the building of these rural dwellings, for an average cost each of approximately $1,300, as a step forward in a demonstration that substantially constructed rural homes need not be expensive.

"Our experience indicates that good homes may be built within this figure, including reasonable profits for the contractor and material supply houses and with payment for labor in line with prevailing standards," Mr. Morgan said. "Frame houses numbering 269 have been built in the four States at an average cost of $1,281.06. Most of these homes included living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and provisions for bath to be subsequently completed. Closet space and built-in features were provided in the plans of most of these homes. Frame house costs ran from $825 to $1,849, according to the type of house, location and building costs.

"Fourteen steel panel houses have been erected in the four States as an experiment to determine if metal construction would prove to be desirable for rural dwellings. Tests so far appear satisfactory and steel construction may be added to the list of materials considered accepted for rural homes and outbuildings. The 14 steel dwellings, with approximately the same floor space and partitions as frame houses, cost from $1,695 to $1.904 with unit costs averaging $1,849 a home."

Much interest has been displayed in the cotton home, just completed in Coffee County, erected by the Farm Security Administration as an experiment to determine the value and desirability of cotton for rural buildings. This home utilizes cotton for roofing, exterior and interior finish.

Cotton duck, approximately 24 ounces weight to the square yard, is stretched over plywood or other smooth backing, adhering to a special film of bedding cement composed of, in part, casein and other material as used in the processing of duck. Copper nails, spaced six inches apart and closer, aid in perfecting the bond.

The durability of cotton duck has been known for many years, as used on the decks of battleships and with the special treatment now impregnating the texture, this material is capable of withstanding severe exterior exposures. Tests indicate that it is weatherproof and sufficiently resistant to fire to be accorded a favorable rating by the bureau of fire underwriters. The tests by the bureau of standards indicate that cotton may prove to be desirable material for rural buildings.

In a program sponsored by the marketing section of a division of the United States Department of Agriculture, cotton for building purposes is fast gaining favor. Tests conducted by the United States Bureau of Standards indicated that cotton as an insulating material is superior to many materials and is equal to rock wool.

Costs of experimental cotton homes are slightly higher than houses built of wood although considerable savings may be effected by prefabrication. Cost of the unit erected in Coffee County is expected to approximate $1,280, Mr. Morgan said.

Florida Farmers Find Prosperity Is Back

GAINESVILLE, Fla. —(ANP)— Of the 854 Negro farmers located in Alachua county, 607 are owners and 247 part owners and tenants according to Frank E. Pinder, Negro county agent who is aiding these farmers to sell such truck crops as cabbage, lettuce, egg-plant, squash, beans and cucumbers direct to Eastern markets.

One of the largest Negro land owners in the county is J. C. (Butterfly) Jones with 1,000 acres. Mr. Jones is a retired letter carrier and in addition to his farm has considerable city property in Gainesville.

Nelson Morris, who owns 200 acres, sold 35 hogs this year in addition to his cops and is constructing a modern home from native stone found on his land.

Frank Michael, owner of 140 acres, claims that much of his inspiration came from attending the Tuskegee farmers' conference. This year Mr. Michael sold 87 hogs and has just completed a modern wind mill to provide running water for the home he remodeled last year.

Mrs. Mary Todd McKenzee, the Home Demonstration Agent, is conducting a tree and flower planting campaign among the women of the county.

Negro Citrus Grower Develops New Fruit

SEFFNER, Fla., Mar.—(ANP)—Joseph Smalley, veteran Negro citrus fruit farmer here, has developed a new product. Unnamed as yet, Mr. Smalley calls his discovery "The Unknown Fruit", and while he has not revealed the blendings and graftings which made it possible, he has a number of trees producing. Resembling a grapefruit, it has all of the grapefruit's acidity and meat yet tastes as sweet as an orange.

Grows Melons By The Carload; Crushes 'Em Just For The Seed

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Jan. 12 —(ANP)—Can you imagine a farmer growing 40 acres of choice watermelons, then crushing them and throwing away luscious red meat just in order to save the seed? Well, that is exactly what Colin Leonard, a Negro farmer located near here, does in order to fill a contract which he has with a nationally-known seed-house. In 1938, Mr. Leonard sold 10,000 pounds of watermelon seed to this firm.

According to E. B. Wyer Jr., Negro county agent, Mr. Leonard was one of the best farmers in the county to be selected for experimenting with sea island cotton in this section of Florida., He owns 200 acres of land and lives in a modern two-story home with all conveniences.

FLORIDA FARMERS PROSPER

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Pensacola, Fla. Journal
March 7, 1939

Negro Farmer Leads Pine Seed Plantings

MARIANNA, March 6.—(Special) More than 465,000 slash pine seedlings, one year old, have been set by Jackson county farmers during 1938 and through January of the current year, according to J. W. Malone, county agent.

Approximately 75,000 set by G. E. Granberry, a colored farmer in the eastern part of the county, represents the largest number handled by an individual farmer, said the agent, with Granberry setting about 90 to 100 acres. Co-operating in the work, it is stated, the state forestry service provided trained forestry men who demonstrated correct methods to be employed in setting the pines.

Florida Farmer Shows Way To Better Living

TALLAHASSE, Fla.— (ANP —When a farm family produces 6 bales of cotton, 1,200 bushels o corn, 1,000 bushels of peanuts an has 107 hogs and over 1,000 chick ens on the place that family i rated as good farmers.

Such is the story of Edward Crump, a Negro farmer located near here, who, with his father and brother, have adjoining farms. Such a farmer is also an inspiration for his 14 year old son who as a 4-H club boy recently won the county prize for producing 47 bushels of corn on one acre.

Mr. Crump is one of the most active supporters of the agricultural conservation program and has made farming pay by applying scientific methods.

Jacksonville, Fla. Times-Union
March 8, 1939

Negro Farmers Rewarded For Operations Records

Special to Times-Union.

TALLAHASSEE, March 7.—Detailed and accurate records of their farming operations were kept last year by 11 Leon County negro farmers, and probably will be kept by 20 or more this year. Negro Farm Agent Rolly Wyer recently awarded prizes to the four who had kept the best records, as judged by economists with the State Agricultural Extension Service.

Prize winners were E. L. Lawrence, Leonard Cooper and H. G. Gaines Jr., who received seed corn of the new Florident variety, and Willie Carr, who drew a number of stalks of an improved sugarcane.

C. M. Hampson, economist in farm management with the Extension Service, commended the negroes who started their books for finishing them in good order, and said that negro farmers in five other counties are keeping similar records at the instigation of their local farm agents.

DeLand, Fla., Sun News
March 13, 1939

SYRUP INDUSTRY IS GROWING IN SUNSHINE STATE

Market Shows a Remarkable Growth Since Exposition Display At Cleveland In '36-37

COLORED COLLEGE OPENED CAMPAIGN

An important new industry for Florida is being built up and put upon a commercial footing through the influence of the exhibits of the state's resources and attractions held in the past, with particular reference, in this case, to the exhibits maintained at the Great Lakes Exposition in Cleveland, during the summers of 1936 and 1937.

The growing of sugar cane and the grinding of the cane into syrup, by Florida farmers, is not new but it never, till now, has taken on a national aspect. The market for the syrup has been more or less a local proposition in spite of the great volume of syrup produced each year, according to A. A. Turner, district agent of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical college at Tallahassee, working among the Negro farmers of the state.

According to the same authority, the Negro farmers of Florida, organized under the caogis of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical college, have had a tendency to specialize in the production of cane syrup and sweet potatoes, but particularly cane syrup, and are making a success of the venture, thanks to the aid given them by the officials and manager of the famous Florida exhibits made at Chicago and Cleveland, through exhibit space and through having the Florida syrup placed on sale at the exhibits.

"We experimented for two or three years," said Turner, "in an effort to produce a syrup which would be free of deleterious acids and other things which gave the

ordinary cane syrup and unpleasant after taste. We secured the services of a competent syrup maker and provided him with the proper equipment which enabled him to produce what is believed to be the purest and best syrup ever produced in the state.

"Then we went to Mr. Brown, manager of the Florida exhibit at Cleveland, told him what we had and asked for an opportunity to show it at Cleveland. He gave us the space. The people of Cleveland bought trial packages of the syrup and came back for more. We finally induced a few food stores to stock it to take care of the customers we had secured. Now we maintain a brokerage office in Cleveland which sees that orders for the syrup which are coming from all parts of Ohio are filled. We hope soon to be manufacturing in quantities which will enable us to ship in car load lots. This is one industry which has been greatly furthered by the Florida exhibits. We hope Mr. Brown will give us exhibit space in New York. If he does we will expand further."

REALLY NO BULL!

Florida Negro Farmer Has 10,000 Acres And 2,000 Head Of Cattle

Journal and Guide 5-11-39

KISSIMME, Fla., May—(ANP)—Down in this section, the natives call this place "Cow-Town", because of the large number of beef cattle sold here each year. One of the oldest established and largest dealers in cattle is Lawrence Silas, Negro farmer.

Philadelphia Pa

"My father was a rancher," says Silas, "and I started riding and helping to round up cattle when I was four years old. I'm 52 years old now, and don't know any other line except breeding, growing, buying and selling cattle."

Silas admits that the ranch land which he owns and leases amounts to over 10,000 acres, and he keeps on hand from 1,500 to 2,000 head of cattle, 20 horses and several trucks.

Negro Farmer One of Florida's Largest Dealers In Cattle

Journal and Guide 6-3-39

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Mr. Silas admits that the ranch land which he owns and leases amounts to over 10,000 acres, and he keeps on hand from 1,500 to 2,000 head of cattle, 20 horses and several trucks.

Norfolk, Va

Recently Mr. Silas bought five Brahma bulls from Texas. "When with native stock," he says, "we get more meat and each head of cattle sold brings from $6 to $5 more."

* * * *

When Sherman Sweet graduated from Florida A. & M. college at Tallahassee last May, he decided that he did not wish to teach and was determined to work for himself. By October, he had borrowed and saved enough money to start a small poultry farm, and now he keeps on hand an average of 1,500 Rhode Island Reds, White Leghorns and Barred Rocks, His sales of fryers average 225 per week at from 28 to 30 cents a pound, and his egg sales average 30 dozen each week.

Green crops grown on the farm which he rents reduces the cost of commercial feed for his chickens. "It cost me about 53c to produce a 3½ pound bird for market." he said. "and so far the demand far exceeds my supply." When asked if he was satisfied with the progress he had made, Mr. Sweet said, "I've about paid back what I borrowed to help me to get started, and am mighty happy to have a business of my own."

Inverness, Fla. Chronicle
July 20, 1939

WATERMELONS PAY NEGROES

Gainesville, Fla. — Despite heavy damage by anthracnose, melon crops raised by Negro farmers in the Alachua and Newberry communities brought $8,165, Frank Pinder, Alachua County Negro agent, reports.

Bonifay, Fla., Advertiser
July 21, 1939

WATERMELONS PAY NEGROES

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Fla. Farmers Incorporate For $10,000

Journal and Guide

Aid Given In Financing and Selling Wares

11-4-39

Norfolk, Va

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— With a capitalization of $10,000, the Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association has recently been incorporated in keeping with an 18-year old dream of A. A. Turner, field agent of the State Agricultural Extension Service to formulate a workable plan of farm financing and marketing for colored farmers.

Mr. Turner has been aided by members of his staff and by the business men of both races.

Prior to the incorporation, negotiations had been entered in by the Co-operative Association of Tallahassee headed by G. D. Rogers president of the Central Life Insurance Company of Tampa, and Stuart H. Frank of New York.

As a result of the negotiations, the directors and stockholders of the Florida Association met at Fessenden Academy. The stockholders of the old association decided to dissolve in favor of the new organization, which proposed to carry out the best features of the old co-operative.

The first unit organized was the East Coast Branch,headed by W. J. Finley of Deerfield, with O. J. Foster as secretary, and S. D. Spady of Delray Beach as advisor.

ALREADY OPERATING

Arrangements have been made whereby the members of this branch are receiving the various material necessary for the production of their winter crops and being provided a packing house in which to prepare them for market. The crops will be sold through the sales organization of Mr. Frank on the Pompano state market shed.

The association plans to sell everything for cash. As much of the vegetables as possible will be sold on the local market.

Other branches are being formed in Marion and Sumter Counties.

Tampa, Fla Tribune
October 2, 1939

For Negro Farmers

The fourth annual series of Farm and Home Institutes for negro farmers in Florida will be taken this year to the farmers. In a series of one-day meetings held throughout the state, state and local farmers' organizations assisted by educational institutions, the negro extension service and state and federal agencies will provide instruction and encouragement to help make a better and richer farm and home life for the negro farmer. Florida's negro farmers have been making an excellent production record recently. This activity is intended to increase their crops, bring them more profitable returns.

Negro farmers and farm women in the West Coast district, including Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties, will have their institute Oct. 12 at the Midway Academy, Plant City.

These institutes have an important place in the life of our farm people. Besides instruction in a variety of farm topics, they offer inspiration which can go a long way towards building a feeling of security among negro farmers. We urge every farmer in the district to attend.

FLORIDA FARMERS ORGANIZE TO MARKET WINTER PRODUCTS

Co-operative Association Is Set Up With Capital of $10,000—Business Men of Both Races Support Project—Everything to Be on "Cash and Carry" Basis.

OCALA, Fla., Nov. 9—Since 1918 it has been the desire of A. A. Turner of the Negro Division of the State Agricultural Extension Service, with headquarters at the Florida A. & M. College, Tallahassee to see a workable plan for farm financing and marketing for Negro farmers in Florida. To that end, he has worked unceasingly through these years, aided by members of his staff, together with the support of the business men of both races and as the result, the "Farmers' Cooperative Association of Florida, Inc.," operating under the laws of Florida has come into existence with a capitalization of $10,000.

Negotiations have been under way between the Florida Farmers' Cooperative Association of Tallahassee, headed by G. D. Rogers, president, Central Life Insurance Company of Tampa, and Stuart H. Frank, of New York City, for several months, which materialized at a special meeting of the board of directors and stockholders of the Florida Farmers Cooperative Association at Fessenden Academy, whereby the stockholders of the old Association decided to dissolve in favor of the new, with the intention as urged by Mr. Frank, that the new association had every hope of carrying out the best features of the plan and program of the old organization.

The first branch of the Farmers' Cooperative Association, Inc., to be organized was the East Coast branch, headed by W. J. Finley, of Deerfield, with O. J. Foster, as secretary and S. D. Spady of Delray Beach, advisor.

Arrangements have been made, whereby the members of this branch are receiving the various materials necessary for the successful production of a winter crop and of being provided with a packing house in which products will be adequately prepared for market and sold through the medium of the sales organization of Mr. Frank at the Pompano State Market shed.

One of the policies of this Farmers' Cooperative Association is to sell everything for cash. As much of the vegetables as possible will be sold on the local market. That which cannot be sold locally will be shipped to representatives of the concern in various cities in the United States where prospects at the time look brightest for a good sale.

Associations at present are being formed in Marion and Sumter counties for vegetables and melon growers as well as for sugar cane and sweet potato crops in North and West Florida.

Wauchula, Fla., Herald
November 10, 1939

Future Farmer's Minstrels Ready

Featuring black faced comedians, masked dancers, string music, songs and all kinds of fun the FFA Negro Minstrel is getting well underway and promises to be an even better minstrel than the one the Future Farmer Boys held last summer.

With three acts packed full of entertainment and fun this Negro Minstrel will furnish a full evenings entertainment. The first act will feature the Negro Minstrel in which there will be plenty of wisecracks by black faced comedians, songs by individuals, a quartette number featuring a special skit of the song "Hail the FFA", and a tap dancing number by Miss Faye Ratliff and Nellie Schweigart.

The second act will feature string music and the third act will consist of tap dancing and singing.

The highlight of the show will be a special dance number by two members of the FFA Chapter. A boy will dress up as a girl and with another boy as his partner give the FFA version of the L'Apache Dance. Who the two are that take part in this act will be kept a secret. Come and see who you think they are.

The Negro Minstrel will be put on in the City Hall at Wauchula, Thursday night, at 7:30 o'clock, Nov. 16. Admission will be 10 and 25 cents The show is being sponsored by the Wauchula Chapter of Future Farmers of America.

At the regular meeting of the chapter last Tuesday night the theme of the meeting was "Thrift". A very entertaining and informing program was put on by members of the chapter.

The program was featured by a talk "Thrift, and the Future Farmer" by Prof. L. L. Holmes, which was well received by the chapter and enjoyed by all. The remainder of the program included a talk by one of the members on "What FFA Chapters are doing to Promote Thrift". J. W. Cherry gave a talk on "Some Things I Would Like to Have Ten Years From Now".

The meeting was duly adjourned by the closing ceremony following which a Chicken Pilau supper was served to the boys by their refreshment committee. The boys did away with seven hens, 20 pounds of rice which amounted to a wash-pot full. A good time was had by all.

South's Social Budget Teeters

(From "Forty Acres And Steel Mules" by H. C. Nixon, Formerly Professor of History, Tulane University. Published by University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C.)

The South must plan for social action or resign itself to poverty and disintegration. The South has been a heavy exporter of physical and human resources with little regard to the conservation of these resources.

Its forests have been cut and sold and not replanted. It's coal and iron have been mined to make steel for the enrichment of absentees. The substance of its soil has been taken away through exhaustive crops faster than it was replaced, and much of the land has been washed into the sea. The land robbery has, in effect, robbed the people of the soil of productive power.

The South has an unbalanced budget. It has deficit areas or units of government and people which, nevertheless, contribute something to the wealth of others.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is an organized attempt to plan for plenty and to escape scarcity. It may be fairly called the strongest card in the New Deal. It is the greatest movement in the South for modernizing agriculture, conserving rural manhood and facilitating village development. It represents extraregional capital and a measure of extraregional control, but from Washington, not from Wall Street.

Public policy with respect to land and crops in the South, or for the South, should take account of the large proportion of corporation holdings and corporation farming, especially in the communities where the land is most productive. It is important to recognize that the corporation plantation involves a wage-labor problem, often distinct from tenancy and small-farmer co-operation.

Rural labor relations cannot justly be left to a laissez-faire solution, while agricultural interests in general are receiving favorable governmental intervention. The moderate regulation of corporation farming, encouragement of co-operative farming and security for the actual tillers of the soil are essential to a good rural society and are vital as matters of state. Consideration of these essentials should enter into crop and tax programs.

The South, with its heavy loss from erosion and its excessive fertilizer bill, should be the leading section to apply as fully as possible the national program, recommendations and aid for improvements of land use and land policy. The states of this region should adopt strong legislation and measures for search and support of a program of rural planning in harmony with major trends.

This planning, furthermore, should embrace private lands as well as public holdings, for all land use is a matter of public interest and concern. Farmers should not be permitted to ruin hillside forests and then to ruin the soil of the hills by repeated crops of cotton. The community has the right and the duty to intervene to save its hills from such destruction. Urban and suburban zoning has been in existence for many years. It is time to give attention to rural zoning with regard to agriculture.

Southern states might with profit study the Wisconsin rural zoning system and its results. Under a legislative enabling act of 1929, Wisconsin counties may adopt regulations for zoning lands for agriculture, forestry and recreation.

The South is in urgent need for planning for scientific forestry, which, incidentally, offers handsome returns in both cash and conservation. Timber grows rapidly in this region and furnishes an economic supplement to agriculture. Southern farm woods have yielded a revenue close to $100,000,000 per annum. The South can lead the country in systematic forestry development. But timber conservation policies need more impetus.

Many of the larger lumber and timber companies have adopted policies of conservation, cultivation and gradual use of trees in place of the older method of speedily cutting all the supply and moving to other areas to exploit. Necessity dictates that they switch from old wasteful methods. Forestry Service investigations show that in many cases farmers, including owners of mills, have sacrificed stumpage for immediate cash income, though selective cutting and careful milling would have yielded an equal income without the sacrifice of adequate growing stock.

Much can be done for the protection and the orderly development of Southern farm woodlands. More than education is needed. It is time to adopt measures to bring farmers into long-term forestry programs.

Planning agencies should give careful attention to the possibilities of putting chemistry to work for Southern farmers. Cotton oil products are among the gains from the connection between applied science and agriculture, and a recent eulogy calls cotton seed "gray diamonds." Not content to stop with the cotton lint and seed, experts are experimenting with cotton stalks for new products. There are possibilities for the South in soy beans and in processing them into various industrial products which Henry Ford and others consume in further production. Tung oil offers commensurate returns for cheap lands. George Washington Carver of Tuskegee has derived numerous delicacies from the lowly peanut.

Chemistry and improved processing can create new sources of income for Southern farmers, and these new sources of income should be provided. But in these developments, farmers should be protected by expert advice and by organizations of their own against mistakes and against exploitation. Planning boards and agricultural authorities should endeavor to safeguard the interests of all farmers with respect to these scientific trends. Overprediction of results should be guarded against, and the growers of unprotected staples should not be lured by industrial chemists' propaganda into an advocacy of high tariffs.

There must be a planning for democratic education beyond the school room and the school year, if social action is to be effective, intelligent and democratic. It is important that technical knowledge be humanized and publicized among the masses, that the extension services of the land-grant colleges be spread more widely among tenants and small farmers, and that hillbilly suspicions of planter control of these services be allayed. Agriculture colleges must dare to build for a new social order as well as for a new order of pigs, cows and crops.

Ford Claims Contribution To Mechanized Farming Era

By The Asso

DETROIT, June 30.—Henry Ford has a new contribution to the mechanical vehicle age he helped to create—a mechanized farming unit which he says will displace the horse and mule as farm animals and "revolutionize agriculture."

Before invited news writers, representatives of farm magazines and agricultural exports, Mr. Ford showed the machine in construction on an assembly line at the River Rouge factory and on acres adjoining his suburban Dearborn home.

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When the plow point catches under an obstruction the operator backs the tractor, raises the trailing implement by pressing a lever, then passes over the obstruction and again lowers the plow.

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Non-Political Farm Relief

The farm problem is essentially a problem of increasing agriculture's cash income. Government has been wrestling with that problem for many years. It has been wrestling with scores of farm relief bills. And every one of them has been more or less a failure.

Today, among the farmers, the value of agricultural legislation is being heavily discounted. Such legislation is necessarily transitory. It is the product, often, of political deals dominated by special interests. And the result is that the farmer is looking less to Washington for aid—and more to his own organizations.

The growth of the cooperative marketing organizations furnishes evidence of this. They have grown remarkably in membership—and, even more important, they have grown in influence. They are gradually increasing agriculture's income by using sound business principles as their tools—something political farm relief has failed to do.

AAA DIRECTOR LAUDS SOUTH'S NEGRO FARMER

Proposes Remedy for Conditions

ST. LOUIS, July 27—(ANP)—Praise for Negro farmers of the South and a frank discussion of the causes and some proposed remedies for low income of southern agriculture were high spots of an address delivered here Sunday by Dr. I. W. Duggan, director, Southern division, Agricultural

AGRICULTURE - 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

GENERAL

South's Social Budget Teeters

(From "Forty Acres And Steel Mules" by H. C. Nixon, Formerly Professor of History, Tulane University. Published by University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C.)

The South must plan for social action or resign itself to poverty and disintegration. The South has been a heavy exporter of physical and human resources with little regard to the conservation of these resources.

Its forests have been cut and sold and not replanted. It's coal and iron have been mined to make steel for the enrichment of absentees. The substance of its soil has been taken away through exhaustive crops faster than it was replaced, and much of the land has been washed into the sea. The land robbery has, in effect, robbed the people of the soil of productive power.

The South has an unbalanced budget. It has deficit areas or units of government and people which, nevertheless, contribute something to the wealth of others.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is an organized attempt to plan for plenty and to escape scarcity. It may be fairly called the strongest card in the New Deal. It is the greatest movement in the South for modernizing agriculture, conserving rural manhood and facilitating village development. It represents extraregional capital and a measure of extraregional control, but from Washington, not from Wall Street.

Public policy with respect to land and crops in the South, or for the South, should take account of the large proportion of corporation holdings and corporation farming, especially in the communities where the land is most productive. It is important to recognize that the corporation plantation involves a wage-labor problem, often distinct from tenancy and small-farmer co-operation.

Rural labor relations cannot justly be left to a laissez-faire solution, while agricultural interests in general are receiving favorable governmental intervention. The moderate regulation of corporation farming, encouragement of co-operative farming and security for the actual tillers of the soil are essential to a good rural society and are vital as matters of state. Consideration of these essentials should enter into [illegible] p and tax programs.

The South, with its heavy loss from erosion and its excessive fertilizer bill, should be the leading section to apply as fully as possible the national program, recommendations and aid for improvements of land use and land policy. The states of this region should adopt strong legislation and measures for search and support of a program of rural planning in harmony with major trends.

This planning, furthermore, should embrace private lands as well as public holdings, for all land use is a matter of public interest and concern. Farmers should not be permitted to ruin hillside forests and then to ruin the soil of the hills by repeated crops of cotton. The community has the right and the duty to intervene to save its hills from such destruction. Urban and suburban zoning has been in existence for many years. It is time to give attention to rural zoning with regard to agriculture.

Southern states might with profit study the Wisconsin rural zoning system and its results. Under a legislative enabling act of 1929, Wisconsin counties may adopt regulations for zoning lands for agriculture, forestry and recreation.

The South is in urgent need for planning for scientific forestry, which, incidentally, offers handsome returns in both cash and conservation. Timber grows rapidly in this region and furnishes an economic supplement to agriculture. Southern farm woods have yielded a revenue close to $100,000,000 per annum. The South can lead the country in systematic forestry development. But timber conservation policies need more impetus.

Many of the larger lumber and timber companies have adopted policies of conservation, cultivation and gradual use of trees in place of the older method of speedily cutting all the supply and moving to other areas to exploit. Necessity dictates that they switch from old wasteful methods. Forestry Service investigations show that in many cases farmers, including owners of mills, have sacrificed stumpage for immediate cash income, though selective cutting and careful milling would have yielded an equal income without the sacrifice of adequate growing stock.

Much can be done for the protection and the orderly development of Southern farm woodlands. More than education is needed. It is time to adopt measures to bring farmers into long-term forestry programs.

Planning agencies should give careful attention to the possibilities of putting chemistry to work for Southern farmers. Cotton oil products are among the gains from the connection between applied science and agriculture, and a recent eulogy calls cotton seed "gray diamonds." Not content to stop with the cotton lint and seed, experts are experimenting with cotton stalks for new products. There are possibilities for the South in soy beans and in processing them into various industrial products which Henry Ford and others consume in further production. Tung oil offers commensurate returns for cheap lands. George Washington Carver of Tuskegee has derived numerous delicacies from the lowly peanut.

Chemistry and improved processing can create new sources of income for Southern farmers, and these new sources of income should be provided. But in these developments, farmers should be protected by expert advice and by organizations of their own against mistakes and against exploitation. Planning boards and agricultural authorities should endeavor to safeguard the interests of all farmers with respect to these scientific trends. Overprediction of results should be guarded against, and the growers of unprotected staples should not be lured by industrial chemists' propaganda into an advocacy of high tariffs.

There must be a planning for democratic education beyond the school room and the school year, if social action is to be effective, intelligent and democratic. It is important that technical knowledge be humanized and publicized among the masses, that the extension services of the land-grant colleges be spread more widely among tenants and small farmers, and that hillbilly suspicions of planter control of these services be allayed. Agriculture colleges must dare to build for a new social order as well as for a new order of pigs, cows and crops.

Ford Claims Contribution To Mechanized Farming Era

By The Asso

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Speaking before a large and appreciative audience which greeted him at the morning service at Lane Tabernacle C. M. E. church, Dr. Duggan was welcomed by Dr. Noah W. Clark, pastor, who told the guest speaker that "we who live in this section of the country are deeply interested in the progress of our people in the South."

In speaking of the fear which some persons have of the changes in our economic structure which have been initiated by the government, Dr. Duggan said:

"If we succeed in solving our economic problem, I am not afraid of a change in our form of government. If the average factory worker has steady work at good pay, he will not be lured either by Fascism or Communism. If the farmer gets a reasonable price for the things he raises, he will oppose radicalism. But we cannot expect men to give their support to a system of government which does not give them an opportunity to earn a decent living. We must provide that opportunity if we are to have a stable national life. To do so we must solve some fundamental problems. The federal government is the only agency which has the resources and the power to cope with many of these problems. Among them, as I see it, is the farm problem."

Lauds Cooperation

Of the 654,000 Negro farmers in the cotton producing states, Dr. Duggan paid tribute for their cooperation with the government's farm program and added:

"Most students of the problems of the Negro farmer have, I believe, overlooked factors in these farm programs which have proved beneficial to him and will prove more beneficial as time goes on. These programs have centered the attention of the country upon the South and the sharecropper. The sharecropper has been in the South since the Civil war. The AAA programs did not create the tenancy problem of the race problem.

"We have had them for years and not until we began national programs for agriculture did the country awaken to the situation among the sharecroppers and the farmers in our backward areas. The programs have been responsible for hundreds of meetings which were attended by Negro farmers. The Negro farmer has had an opportunity to learn fundamental facts and to examine his own situation in their light. To a large extent, these programs have brought the Negro farmer out of the eddy in which he lived and back into the current of action and vigorous thought.

The programs have even called the attention of some planters to the plight of their own tenants. I know of a health clinic in Arkansas which grew out of the desire of a planter to have his tenants use the land taken out of cotton to grow more food and feed for home use.

"I am certain that these programs have helped dissipate race prejudice. Any movement which brings Negro farmers together to discuss common problems is bound to result in a better understanding. The programs have caused many of us to have a better realization of the contribution that Negro farmers have made to southern agriculture. We have come to realize that the South cannot progress until all its people progress, whether they are landowners or tenants white or colored. The need for conservation of human resources is just as great as the need for conservation of soil resources."

Southern Farmer Gets High Praise From AAA Director

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U. S. Falls, local fish merchant and vice-president of the St. Louis Negro Business League, presented A. L. Holsey, field officer, AAA and secretary, National Negro Business League, who in turn, presented Dr. Duggan to the audience.

Farm Power Lines Go Coöperative

In 1936 the Rural Electrification Act entrusted to the Rural Electrification Administration a ten-year program of taking power to unelectrified farms. Since that time more farms have been electrified than in the thirty preceding years. The REA's policy is one of "area coverage"—lines are run into isolated areas as well as into towns, so that no pockets are left without power. This idea has appealed so strongly to farmers that by June, 1938, 85.9 percent of the REA's projects were coöperatives. A typical example of the REA's 550 units is a coöperative controlling nearly 200 miles of lines. The lines are paid for by twenty-five-year amortization loans with the lowest interest rates in the world for long-term borrowings. Power is bought wholesale from a private utility, or possibly the TVA, and used by 500 or 600 connected members. These members elect their own trustees, who are the policy-makers for the line. They handle the $200,000 loan, and work in coöperation with the electrical superintendent in charge of all technical matters. Because of its principle that electricity is a necessity and no longer a luxury, the REA is helping to make farming easier and cheaper.

The Southern Negro on the Farm

His Problems and What the FSA Is Doing About Them

Farming is both a business and a way of life for half of all Negroes in America. Ninety-five precent of all Negro farm operators are in the South, and more than three-fourths of these are tenants, farm tenants fall, roughly, into three classes:

1.—Sharecroppers, who contribute labor only, receiving in return a share of the crop.

2.—"Third and fourth" tenants, who suppply equipment and bear some managerial responsibility and receive larger shares of the crop according to their contribution of feed, fertilizer, and equipment, a third of the corn and a fourth of the cotton being a common rental.

3..—"Standing renters," who rent the land outright, paying for its use either in cash or produce.

In the South, one-half of all sharecroppers are Negroes. The number of Negro croppers exceeds the number of white croppers in Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Mississippi has three and one-half times as many Negro as white croppers; Louisiana has twice as many.

In other states where the actual number of Negro croppers is less than the number of white croppers, the proportion of croppers within the racial group is much larger among Negroes than among whites. In Kentucky, for instance, where 30,258 white croppers constitute only 30 percent of white tenants, the 2,736 Negro croppers are 65 percent of Kentucky's Negro tenants.

Other states show even higher proportions. Mississippi's Negro tenants are 71 percent sharecroppers, and 82 percent of all Georgia's Negro tenants are in this class. Half of all Negro children growing up on Southern farms face the drudgery and neglect typical of most croppers' children of any race.

Chief among the evils which the poor man on the farm—small owner, tenant or laborer—has to face are poor housing, high mortality, insecurity and debt.

Bad housing and sanitation are reflected in hookworm and anemia. Faulty diets result in pellagra. The yearly toll from death and disease adds to the burden in indebtedness, while beneath all these hurtful conditions lies the menace of insecurity, crippling both landlord and tenant in any effort toward progress.

1.—WHAT IS THE FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AND WHAT IS IT DOING TO CORRECT SUCH CONDITIONS WHERE THEY EXIST?

A.—What It Is:

1.—It is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, set up to help needy farm families which are unable to get help elsewhere.

B.—What It Does:

1,—It makes rehabilitation loans, at 5 percent interest, for periods of one to five years. With such a loan, the farmer buys the things he needs to make a living from the land—wagons, mules, mlik cows, seed, fertilizer, etc. Usually included in the loan are reserve funds sufficient to provide the family with food and clothing through a crop year. Farmers obtaining these loans cooperate with Farm Security Administration farm and home management supervisors in making and carrying out plans for each year's operations.

a.—Every farm plan calls for the production at home of enough food to supply the farm family with a properly balanced diet, thus preventing dietary diseases and improving general health.

b.—The farm plan also calls for the production at home of ample feed for the livestock, increasing the value of the stock and conserving cash.

c.—The plan calls for the conservation of the soil by sound farm practices, such as crop rotation, planting of cover crops, and erosion control.

Through rehabilitation loans, families are learning to keep their books, make their budgets, and live within them. Approximately 50,000 such loans, representing 12.5 per cent of the total, have been made to Negro farmers in the last four years. Negro farmers are 12.6 percent of America's farm operators.

2.—It enables selected renters, sharecroppers or farm laborers with energy, ambition and a good record to become established as owners on desirable land through long-time loans in larger amounts, repayable over a period of 40 years. Cooperative supervision is a part of all loan agreements. During the first year of operation of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act—1937-38—265 loans were made to Negro tenants, constituting 18.6 percent of the total for Regions 4, 5, 6, and 8 where Negroes on farms are found in appreciable numbers. Negro tenancy in this area is 34.1. Applications for 1937-39 were 19.3 percent of the total and for this year were 26.4.

a.—In actual figures there were five times as many Negro applications this year as last year—26,989 as compared with 5,089. Figures for whites rose proportionately.

3.—It is trying to develop better social and economic patterns in agriculture by establishing homestead projects. Some of them are new communities, while others consist of scattered individual farms. More than 1,000 Negro families were living on such projects in January, 1939.

a.—Farmsteads on these projects are provided with houses, barns, and out buildings. Representatives of the Farm Security Administration guide these homesteaders in their farm work, exactly as they help FSA rehabilitation borrowers.

b.—In addition to this assistance, project farmers learn to farm cooperatively. Cooperative stores, gins and marketing services are acquainting them with the benefits of cooperatives.

c.—Negro farmers, together with others, are profiting by this experience. They are established on 31 projects in 13 Southeastern States.

4.—FSA also is setting up rental cooperatives, through which groups of tenants can improve their tenureship and living conditions by leasing large tracts of land through FSA loans, and operating them cooperatively, usually with an option to buy within a given period.

a.—Thirty such rental cooperatives are being set up for operation in the Mississippi Delta area. Color ratio on these projects is determined by the need in the area.

Projects on which Negro youths can secure "internships" in modern farm practices are pointing the way for the coming generation.

c.—By encouraging long-term written leases, FSA is trying to cure some of the worst evils of tenancy. Such leases benefit both owner and tenant, since they encourage better housing and better land use.

5.—FSA supplies, without cost, a debt adjustment service which is available to all farmers. Volunteer local committees have arranged debt adjustments which have saved [illegible] farmers $18,807,693 in the last four years. There is no racial breakdown on these figures, but case histories on file at Farm Security Administration offices show that Negro farmers especially are benefiting by this service.

6.—It offers loans to small groups of farmers under the purchase livestock, heavy farm equipment and other needed services individually, enabling them to purchase these for community use. Negroes are making increasing use of these community services.

7.—It is releasing land to its proper use by limiting loans to farmers established on land suitable for cultivation, and by assisting in the relocation of farmers situated on sub-marginal or cut-over lands.

a.—It is restoring land to cultivation through erosion control by its clients, and by instructing and directing its borrowers in soil-building practices.

8.—It is shaping patterns in rural education, by providing adequate school buildings and equipment on many projects. State and County school authorities cooperate in supplying competent staffs to teach subjects carefully correlated with rural life. Negro tenants particularly are welcoming this educational guidance.

9.—It is supplying medical aid through the establishment of group medical care associations, through which clients receive service of physicians and nurses at minimum rates, supplanting fear, neglect and superstition with skilled assistance.

HOW IS THIS PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FSA AND THE FARMER DIRECTED?

A.—By close cooperation between FSA supervisors and borrowers, planning together for the development of each farm unit affected: the cash crop, garden produce, canning, farm procedure, and setting up of farm bookeeping, including budget and inventory.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE RESULTS OF THIS PARTNERSHIP?

A—Increased self-respect as evidenced by repayments—often made ahead of time.

B.—Increases in net worth in terms of increased canning, livestock and equipment and improved diet and housing.

C.—General improvement in tenureship and in owner-tenant relationships.

D.—Increased ownership.

E.—Increased knowledge of modern agricultural methods.

F.—Improvement in health and living standards.

FCA NEGRO BORROWERS IN GOOD RECORD

Chicago Defender 3-25-39
St. Louis, Mo.

U.S. Farm Credit Bureau Shows They Do Well

"Many of our best Negro farmers are member-borrowers of Farm Credit Administration lending services." states Cornelius King, special assistant to the governor of the FCA. Mr. King has recently returned from a tour of seven southern states, visiting farms of Negro members of production credit and national farm loan associations. Mr. King says that thousands of colored farmers throughout the region visited are benefitting from federal land bank, production credit and emergency crop loans.

He found that colored member-borrowers are not only making a good reputation as credit risks, but they are also repaying their loans as rapidly as they secure income from the sale of farm products. He states that this is a good plan to follow and brings about a considerable reduction in the cost of the loan. He reports further that he found several farmers who were not able to qualify for loans due to insufficiency of collateral, lack of clear title of property, or failure to have cancellation of mortgage recorded. "These are serious problems facing Negro farmers and must be given careful consideration in our programs for agricultural improvement." says the successor of the late Dr. H. A. Hunt.

Are Efficient

Questioned as to specific cases concerning some of the colored member-borrowers of FCA services, Mr. King cited the following examples selected from the Oklahoma territory:

Robert Partridge of Boley has 1.160 acres of land with more than 800 acres under cultivation. He has 38 very fine Herefrod cattle, 138 Poland China hogs, and ample poultry and turkeys. Even at this season he still has on hand some 500 pounds of cured pork. The place is managed by his two sons and worked by 11 tenant families. Mr. Partridge is a member of the county AAA committee and is also a member of the state FSA committee.

P. L. Anderson, member-borrower of the Farmers National Farm Loan Association at Okemah. Okla., owns 120 acres, of which 72 are in cultivation. He has a 5-acre orchard composed of apple, peach, pear and plum trees, and about one acre in grapes. His orchard is considered one of the best in that section. Over 300 chickens, seven beef cattle, and 18 hogs serve to supplement the income from the orchard and cotton crops. Mr. Anderson's son is in partnership with him.

The most interesting member of the Eastern Oklahoma National Farm Loan Association at Tahlequah. Okla., was a widow, Mrs. Gordon, who was operating a 160-acre farm with the help of her three boys, ranging in age from 12 to 23 years. The county agent, A. H. Fuhr of Muskogee, had assisted in helping her to secure the loan and was therefore intensely interested in instructing them in the proper management of the farm so as to support the family, meet the semi-annual payments and also keep up operating expenses. Mrs. Gordon proudly showed her turkeys, chickens, hogs and beef cattle she was raising to supplement the cotton and small grain as maior cash crops. She stated that the income from her turkeys met the fall land bank payment and the income from her poultry met the spring note.

The special assistant to the governor of the FCA says that farm credit service is available to all farmers who can qualify, regardless of race, creed or color. He urges Negro farmers to make more extensive use of these low-interest-bearing cooperative services.

Colored farmers desiring information relative to farm credit assistance may secure it from the county agents, teachers of vocational agriculture or may write directly to Cornelius King, special assistant to the governor, Farm Credit Administration. Washington, D. C.

AGRICULTURE - 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

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AGRICULTURE: A NEW FRONT FOR COLLEGE TRAINED MAN

By ALBON L. HOLSEY

(Field Officer, AAA)

Such dark and forbidding pictures have been drawn of southern agricultural conditions that all too frequently many of the brighter aspects are completely obscured.

The pressure, however, upon the Negro colleges to meet increasing demands for new outlets for their graduates, will eventually lead to a wider exploration into agricultural possibilities.

To the average student, the very suggestion of agriculture or rural life, instantly brings to their minds long hours in the field, drudgery, little or no recreation and an uncertain income which offers no economic security.

Because these conditions do exist, county, state and national governments are organizing to meet the challenge and to take steps to make farm life more attractive. Thus, in between these agencies and the farmer there is a steadily increasing number of trained workers who are helping to interpret the new objective to the farmer.

Negro colleges are adding courses in rural education in order to provide teachers for replacements and new opportunities in rural schools.

Another important group is composed of the itinerant teachers of vocational agriculture and home economics. Men and women who qualify for these positions must have at least a bachelor of science degree and the number of these workers is gradually increasing each year.

Under the United States Extension Service, there is still another group of these college trained men and women who are touch and influencing the lives of thousands of Negro farm families. In addition to about 450 of these county workers there are two Negro state leaders in most of the southern states—a man and a woman and two Negro field supervisors over seven and eight states respectively.

The Farm Security Administration with about 23 rural housing projects are increasing the number of Negro nurses, home economists and farm managers.

In each of the southern states there are from 20 to 35 Jeanes supervisors whose function are such that they are practically assistant county superintendents of education in charge of Negro schools. These highly trained women exercise a high degree of authority in selecting teachers and in curricula making.

All of the afore-mentioned workers have cars for carrying on their work, for which they receive upkeep wholly or in part and their status gives them both prestige and influence in their county and state.

Passing from the official group to the opportunities which are open as private operators many examples are convincing that hard, conscientious work with an objective has its reward.

Of the 654,000 Negro farm operators in the cotton states, 122,000 are owners of 10,533,682 acres of land valued at $207,932,597. These farms vary in size from two or three acres to as much as 4,000. Most of the owners made small down cash payments or else began as tenants or renters.

What these men have done, others can and are doing. Some years ago, a farmer in Texas started with less than $100.00 and when he died three years ago he left his daughter who is a Wiley graduate, to manage the 1,000-acre farm and she, with the aid of her mother, is doing an excellent job.

Contrast this with an offer which was made to a couple of graduates in agriculture to become managers of a large farm on a basis which assured them a larger share of the returns. They said they "didn't care to leave the city."

There are many opportunities for strong, well-trained college men to organize farmers into marketing cooperatives as well as to become managers on a share basis with work stock, implements, etc., provided.

Through the AAA, the government is helping the southern farmer to increase income and yields through three types of payments and that alone gives an edge to the farmer over that which was available six years ago.

Aside from the fact that there is great need for finding new employment outlets another reason of equal importance is expressed in the recent report of National Emergency Council to President Roosevelt on Economic conditions in the South. The report says:

"As long as the agricultural worker cannot gain assurance of a continuing existence on the farm, he remains a threat to the job, the wages, and the working conditions of the industrial worker."

The urgent need to help the farmer towards that "assurance" is trained leadership and many of our colleges and universities are properly equipped to help supply that need.

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ON FARM COOPERATIVES

Mr. Henry A. Wallace, the Secretary of Agriculture, recently explained before the American Institute of Cooperation at the University of Chicago the prerequisites for the success of the farm cooperatives. He pointed out that the farm cooperative was one of the instruments being used to strengthen American democracy.

Alabama farmers have developed some excellent cooperative societies, though there obviously is room for more. If they are to be successful, said Secretary Wallace, they must have, first, "a loyal and responsible membership," and, second, "operating efficiency."

"It is not until the initial sign-up period of enthusiasm is past," the Secretary pointed out, "that the members get their real test, for it is more difficult to keep a co-operative going successfully than it is to organize it in the first place. No co-operative can live and thrive unless its members understand its operation, think about and discuss its problems, take great care to choose qualified members as directors, and patronize their association to the fullest.

"The character and quality of the directors usually reflect the character and quality of the members. In a successful co-operative, they are men of leadership and good business judgment, who can work with others, and who have a broad understanding of both the possibilities and limitations of their enterprise, and who have an accurate knowledge of the affairs of their association.

"Co-operative organizations always have a better chance in communities where farm tenure conditions are stable than in communities where many farmers are moving every year or two. The stability of farm communities is an important factor in the strength of farmer co-operatives. For this reason, the co-operative organizations of the United States have a special interest in the national program of dealing with the tenancy problem through the Bankhead-Jones Act. Real damage was done the co-operative movement when the do-nothing bloc in the House of Representatives killed the President's lending bill, which provided for speeding up the tenancy program.

"One of the most outstanding examples of rapid advancement of the co-operative method is in the field of rural electrification. Farmers in all sections of the country previously deprived of electric service have joined together in more than 500 co-operatives to obtain the assistance of the Government in bringing electricity to farm homes. In the four years since the Rural Electrification Administration was established, electric service has been made available through federal efforts and by the utilities to more farm homes than in all the years previous. The number of farms receiving electric service doubled in less than four years. Without the organization of electric service co-operatives, rural electrification could not have progressed nearly so far as it has in so short a time.

"The continued development of the co-operative movement, as well as the various other types of activity undertaken by farmers within the last few years, represents a groping on the part of farmers of the United States for solution of their problems in a truly American way."

Then Mr. Wallace pointed out that as we go forward we should not overlook the examples of Sweden and Finland in developing agricultural co-operatives. He might also have mentioned Denmark, for that country is the real home of the co-operatives primarily designed for farmers.

"In those countries," he said, "there has been no overturn of government or drastic change of economic or social system. At the same time, they have not stood still. They have gradually improved their ways of doing business, keeping both large and small corporations where these appeared to be most efficient and suitable, but turning in certain cases to co-operative organization and even to government ownership where neither the corporate nor the co-operative form of organization proved adequate.

"The United States, of course, is much bigger, both in population and area, than either Sweden or Finland. For that reason, our situation is in some ways much more difficult. We shall have to work our own problems out in our own way."

It is true that these countries are smaller than the United States, but Alabama, for example, is not half as large as Sweden, and we can overcome the size handicap by approaching these problems on a state basis. In this way the bridge between democracy and capitalism can be built. Mr. Wallace thinks one way to accomplish that "would be to make our corporations more democratic in form. Our social-minded corporation officers and directors could study with profit the set-ups of the stronger co-operatives, with their interplay of control and function among the members, directors and management.

"This interplay, when it operates smoothly and with balance, is a splendid demonstration of the possibilities of old-fashioned democracy applied to new-fashioned problems. I sometimes wonder what our corporations would be like, if in the beginning they had been organized like the co-operatives, with each stockholder having only one vote, regardless of how many shares of stock he held, and with voting by proxy barred. If corporations from the beginning had been organized in that manner, though I suspect that our economic progress would not have been as rapid, perhaps our problem of combining democracy and capitalism would be simpler today."

6,181 Tenants Buy Farms Averaging 134 Acres Each

WASHINGTON.—The Farm Security Administration reported that during the first two years under the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act it had made 6,181 loans to tenants for the purchase of farms. The loans aggregated $33,339,684, or an average of $5,394 per farmer.

Farms acquired by these tenant borrowers averaged 134 acres each, the average varied greatly from state to state according to the kinds of farming in the various states. Except for Rhode Island, where only one loan was made, the lowest average in continental United States was 43 acres in California, where irrigation makes small farms profitable. The highest was 520 in South Dakota, where range farming prevails.

During the second year of the program, ending last June 30, the loans ran a little higher, the farms were somewhat bigger, and more improvements were made, than during the first year of the act.

The 4,341 loans during the second year aggregated $24,140,675, or an average of $5,561. The average acreage was 136. The 1,840 loans finally consummated during the first year's program aggregated $9,199,008, or an aveage of $4,999. The average farm bought was 130 acres.

First year borrowers spent $1,626,733 for improvements to the farms they bought, or about 18 percent of their loans. Second year borrowers spent $5,778,268, or about 24 per cent of their loans for improvements. The average for the two years was 22 percent.

This increase had been expected, because as the program progresses, fewer improved farms are available for purchase at reasonable prices, which requires more of the borrowers to put up their own buildings on unimproved farms.

The Bankhead-Jones law was enacted two years ago in an effort to slow down the rapid increase in farm tenancy in the United States, which had jumped from 20 per cent of the farmers 50 years ago to 42 per cent in 1935.

Congress provided for a slow, experimental start to the program appropriating only $10,000.00 the first year, $25,000,000 the second and $40,000.000 for the current fiscal year. Applications are now being received all over the country for the more than 7,000 loans expected to be made this year. With more loans this year than in the two previous years combined, the program has been extended to about 1,300 counties.

Under the act, loans are made to tenants, share-croppers or farm laborers, to be repaid over 40 years at three per cent interest. The annual installments, including principal and interest, must average 4.3 per cent of the loan.

The following breakdown by states shows the number of loans, the amount of loans approved, the average loan, and the avearge farm size for the past year and for the past two years combined:

Ducky Dwelling Down In Coffee Eyes Elements

If It Stands Up, South's Commodity Will Find New Way Out

By WILLIAM M. PINKERTON

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—(AP)—Men who have built steel houses, mud houses, adobe houses and assembly-line frame houses are watching now the weather's wear on their first cotton house.

If a duck-covered dwelling in Coffee County, Ala., stands the test, the South may find a new outlet for its piled-up cotton surplus.

The cotton house is the latest experiment in the Farm Security Administration's search for ways to house poor families comfortably within their incomes.

Housing families with the building materials close at hand is an FSA principle which has turned its engineers to startling experiments. They used pine in the Southeast; cedar in the Northwest; steel in Tennessee and desert dirt in New Mexico.

And now they are eyeing the house that is covered with cotton duck—the same duck long used by the United States Navy as waterproof, sunproof, spotproof decking for ships.

A family has been living in this unique dwelling for a month or so; but the engineers are withholding judgment. There seem to be some blisters

If the trial house warrants further experiments, another may be tried with the duck stretched on panels fitted together for the wall instead of being stretched over a whole side surface.

Roof and walls both are covered with the cotton dressing, nailed to a smooth backing of plywood, plaster or composition board. It replaces the clapboards.

Advocates of the cotton house declare that "the duck is free of curls and buckles, and is flexible and weatherproof....is easily treated to make it fire-resistant....is an excellent insulating material."

Painted With Lead, Oil

Painted with a mixture of white lead and linseed oil every four or five years, they say, the cover should last half a century.

Six men could build a cotton house like the five-room dwelling in Coffee County in 10 days. The cost, including modern plumbing and electric wiring, is around $1,350—about the same as a frame house.

The cotton house now faces its acid test—"living experience." Government men, checking temperatures and talking with the family living there, will report later whether cotton can "make a house a home."

In four Southern states, houses of steel are facing the same test. Since March 14, families have been living in such dwellings in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Strangely enough, the engineers believe the galvanized sheet walls will keep the houses cooler than wood. A "V" trough in each sheet keeps the steel from buckling in weather changes.

While these new-type dwellings pass the test of being-lived-in the engineers are testing Southern mud. They believe the adobe-bricks of the arid southwest may be made from the damper soil of Louisiana and other Eastern states.

The old Indian formula — with chopped straw for a binder—has been discarded for a "stabilized adobe" using asphalt emulsion. In some Southern communities, chemists found, the soil will not mix right for adobe. But builders believe tests will prove their sand-soil-asphalt a new building material for much of the Southland.

Rammed Earth Not So Good

Already, families in Alabama are living in FSA houses of rammed earth—another process. But two years of "living experience" show that these modern "mud huts" may not be proof against a windy, rainy climate.

While the FSA experimented cautiously with untried housing ideas its officials are proudest of its accomplishments in building ordinary frame houses at low cost.

"In Missouri," declared one, "we built 100 houses in 100 days at a little more than $1,100 a house."

The actual building of FSA houses for near-relief farm families is done by private contractors, but the government engineers sold a few new tricks to small-scale builders.

In several localities, houses came off the assembly line like cars or canned goods. A high-efficiency design for a small house was laid out, and a hundred or so like models were ordered.

Machine saws cut the lumber at a central assembly yard. On long platforms, men fitted ready-made windows and doors into whole sections of wall. Foundation posts were turned out in a battery of cement molds. When the parts were finished, the makings of a house could be loaded on a truck, hauled to the site, and erected quickly by a small crew.

Some Southern contractors have taken up the system on their own, to furnish more needed housing to low-income families.

An FSA engineer declared they had saved money on low-cost housing by careful designing, mass purchasing and pre-fabricating.

"We measure the two-by-four against the dollar," he quipped.

Wallace Reports Enlarged Service To Colored Group

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Just off the press, the annual report of the secretary of agriculture, an imposing volume of 169 pages, is replete with information on the departmental doings during the past 12 months. Interesting indeed are the few comments on Negroes, participating in the billion dollar program of the government's largest department.

First mention of Negroes comes on page 72 where it is pointed out specifically:

"Resettlement service to Negroes."

"The scope of services to Negroes has been considerably enlarged. On June 30, 1939, there 1,458 Negro families living on 33 resettlement projects located in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. On these projects, Negro farm and home management supervisor and project nurses have been used as far as possible, in addition to two Negro community managers and a Negro cooperative manager. Marked progress has been made in raising income and improving living standards."

TENANT PURCHASE

Next mentioned on the following page in connection with tenant purchase, the report says:

"In the 14 southern states, the number of Negro applications received during the year was five times that of last year.

"Out of the 92,850 applications in the states, 25,244 or 27 percent were from Negroes."

Skipping to page 125, the report now states in discussing unified county programs:

The county agricultural agents have had an average of eight years of experience in extension work and six years in the county in which they now are. The home demonstration agents have been in extension work an average of five years and in their present counties four years. About 1,500 state extension specialists help the agents to keep abreast of the technical developments and to adapt them to local needs. The county agents give advice and information to large numbers of Negro families. In 256 counties, special Negro agents are employed."

Wallace In Address To Delegates

14 Southern States Send Representatives

WASHINGTON — (ANP) —A group of 50 outstanding Negro farmers, extension agents and vocational agricultural leaders from 14 southern states met at the U. S. Department of Agriculture Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week to study the important new farm programs for 1940. In addition to the state leaders in the extension service and the top vocational ag man each state selected an outstanding farmer in the state to attend the sessions which were educational in character and designed to impart information about governmental policies and procedures which they in turn will take back to the farmers in their respective states.

Led by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, department chiefs and experts on farming marketing and soil preservation studied with the delegation the results of crop reduction this past year, and the effect of the war upon price trends, parity crop payments and soil conservation as well as the other methods through which the government has sought to improve the prices of farm products and to teach farmers how to improve land which poor farming and constant cotton planting hand rendered barren and infertile.

" think," said Secretary Wallace when he addressed the gathering, "the things which are happening abroad warn us that Americans, whatever their race or creed, must work together if we are to avoid what is happening in Europe. The way to avoid Communism, Fascism and other isms is to make this country prosperous and to give all our citizens reason to be proud of the United States. In a prosperous and united country there is no room for religious prejudice or race prejudice.

HAVE MADE PROGRESS

"The colored farmers and other citizens of this country," he continued, "have made a great deal of progress in the past six years. I feel they will continue this progress and, insofar as is in my power I want to give them the same opportunities to continue their advancement as is given any other class or race."

"The Agricultural Adjustment Administration program can only succeed," said Director Evans, as he welcomed the group, "in proportion as it is supported by all of the farmers. When the government gave farmers the AAA it only gave them the same tools to work with which other groups such as manufacturers and business men have to aid them. Parity payment provided by congress seek to bring the farmers income up on a par with other workers. Soil conservation provides machinery for farmers to do what they cannot do alone regular supply and demand." P. A. Stone of Georgia, responding for the Negro group said that it was conscious of what had been done for Negro farmers following the confusion of 1933. He praised the coordination which AAA had brought about in the agencies helping Nero farmers and said they had come to feel that Washington stood for a square deal.

Dr. I. W. Duggan, director of the southern division which arranged the meeting opened the seminar and pointed out that the government was preparing for possibilities. He recalled that the price of cotton did not go up during the former world war until after two or three years. All other commodities went up but a bale of cotton brought less. The program is not for white nor colored farmers, he said, because those factors which will depress prices for one group will do so for all.

SCHOOLROOM ASPECTS

The meeting rapidy took on the aspects of a schoolroom T. J. Ayers, principal economist of the AAA put one of the vocational teachers at the blackboard in discussing the various problems facing the farmer and inviting their question and calling on each in turn, brought out the practical problems which both these successful farmers and the tenants and share croppers in their states had to face. Remedies, solutions and explanations followed. Among the brass tacks topics which this session brought forth were angle on the following: "Lack of Credit; Lack of Thrift; Loss of Outlers or Commodities Produced; Lack of Food and Feed; Poor Soil Being Rapidly Depleted, Not Enough Food on the Land for All the People on It; and Balancing the Farm Program."

Others who spoke were Director S. E. Finn who discussed the tobacco situation; Director N. W. Wickert who talked about the grain situation; Mrs. Jennie B. Moton who described the part the farm women of the south were playing in aiding economy and better living through their increased knowledge and use of vegetable raising, canning, better health and better home making; T. M. Campbell, of Tuskegee, and J. B. Pierce of Hampton, regional extension agents, told of their field activities, S. B. Aiken on "Bettering the Income of Farmers"; C. F. Clark, "Meeting the Food and Food Needs of Farmers"; J. H. Reed, "Protecting the interests of Consumers and Contributing to the General Welfare."

E. A. Miller, director of Negro education in the AAA, spoke on "The Participation of Negro Farmers in the Agricultural Conservation Program"; Assist. Director of Extension, Rouben Brigham told "What the Extension Service Can Do to Make the Agricultural Conservation Program More Effective"; Federal Agent W. N. Elam discussed the program of vocational agricultural workers while Theo. Bond of Arkansas told what Negro farmers could do to make the program more effective.. James Perry Davis and A. L. Holsey were active in arranging the program. Mrs. Mary McL. Bethune, Corneluis King of the Farm Credit Administration and President Archie Gregg of Shorter College, Arkansas, were visitors.

Among those attending the conference and who are to be the spearheads in inculcating the program into the various states were:

Alabama: Arthur Floyd and R. T. Thurston, Tuskegee Institute, and J. D. Lewis, farmer, Shorter; Arkansas: A. E. Woods, North Little Rock. H. C. Ray, Little Rock and Theo. Bond, Madison; Florida: Prof L. A. Marshall and R. E. Wyer, Jr., A and M College, Tallahassee and F. G. Gary, Madison; Georgia: Alva Tabor, Ft. Valley, P. H. Stone, Industrial College, and Oscar Thomas, Dixie; Louisiana: Dallas Mathews, Southern University Baton Rouge Leon Robinson, St. Landry Parish, Opelousas, and John G. Lewis, Natchitoches; Mississippi: W. A. Flowers Lorman, M. M. Hubert, Jackson, and M. M. Coney, McComb; Oklahoma: George McDonald, Muskogee, J. E. Taylor, Langston and Robert Partride, Castle; South Carolina: W. M. Buchanan and H E. Daniels, State College Orangeburg; and C. B. Baukhead, Kelton.

Texas: J. C. McAdams, Crockett, Henry E. Estelle, Prairie View, Ben J. Taylor, Bastrop; Kentucky. J. J. Mark, Frankfort, A. C. Burnette Lexington and Julius Walker Hickman; North Carolina:: S. E. Simmons and J. W. Mitchell, A and T College, Greensboro, and Otis Buffaloe, Wadesboro; Tennessee. J. L. Seets McKenzie, R. H. Brown, Lucy and Roy Bond, Brownsville; Virginia: J. E. Thomas, State College, Ettrick; John L. Charity, Richmond and A. T. Edwards Dinwiddie; Missouri: T. B. Howard, New Madrid and Marshall Currin, Charleston.

T. M. Campbell, regional extension agent, Tuskegee Institute, Ala., J. B. Pierce regional extension agent, Hampton Institute, Va., G. A. Gregg, president Shorter college, Little Rock, Ark., James P. Davis, head field officer, AAA southern division, Mrs. Jennie B. Moton, field officer, AAA, southern division and A. L. Holsey, field officer, AAA southern division.

FARM INCOME RISE PREDICTED FOR '40

War Exports and Industrial Gains at Home Will Be Factors, Washington Says

PRICE ADVANCE FORESEEN

But Agricultural Department Thinks Business Fluctuation May Come During Year

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—Total cash income of farmers in 1940 should be "materially higher" than this year's, but might still not reach the levels of 1937, the Department of Agriculture reported today.

In a statement summarizing the various factors expected to affect 1940 farm income, the department said that its expectations of gains were based first on prospective increases in domestic business activity and consumer incomes and, secondly, on increased export demand for a few farm products if the European war continued for at least a year.

The war had induced part of the sharp increase in industrial production already noted and had improved business prospects for 1940 as a whole, it was added, with an increased export of some industrial commodities to belligerent nations expected, together with a diversion to this country of a part of purchases by neutral nations because their usual sources of supply would be cut off. However, it was asserted that the effect of these changes might be slow in developing because time was required to reorganize purchasing activities and shipping facilities.

Increases in Goods Expected

Even if war had not come, the statement said, general improvement in business activity and consumer income might have been expected to improve farm prospects because no definitely unfavorable situation was noted in any industry, while a considerable increase in the output of automobiles and other durable consumers' goods was probable.

The department noted, however, that some time in 1940 a period of readjustment in the general business picture might be expected to bring a considerable decline from the peak reached in the present upswing. Present production was running ahead of actual consumption and exports by a considerable margin, and uncertainties arising out of the war and adjustments necessary after a period of inventory accumulation would probably bring fluctuations in industrial activity, it was said.

Although it was possible that the expected recession might develop sufficient force to offset other favorable factors and prevent a resumption of the improvement already begun, it was added, "such a result is not probable on the basis of present indications."

Great Britain and France apparently had funds adequate to finance any posisble increase of imports of farm products during the first year or two of the war, the report said. The loss of the German markets, it was added, would be much less important than during the World War.

Higher Prices Are Foreseen

"The probable supply and demand conditions for farm products in general in 1940 indicate that a slightly larger total volume of marketings will be disposed of at higher prices," the survey concluded. "Practically all groups of commodities will share the increase. As a result, cash income from the sale of farm products should be materially higher in 1940 than in 1939, but may not reach the 1937 level. Income from livestock and livestock products may be nearly as large as in 1937.

"Although the increase in income from crops may be relatively as large as for livestock, the larger domestic and world supplies of som eimportant crops may keep the income from them from reaching 1937 levels.

"Government payments will be larger in 1940 than in 1937 and will partially offset the lower income from crops, but total farm income, including government payments, is not likely to equal that for 1937, when income was the highest for any year since 1929.

"The improvement in farm income in 1940 may be more pronounced for meat animals, dairy products, poultry and fruits and vegetables than for cotton and wheat. Some commodities may also benefit from increased foreign demand, particularly hog and dairy products."

The Cotton Farmers Vote Nine To One For Crop Control

The cotton farmers of the nation again voted overwhelmingly for crop control in the referendum held Saturday. There had been no doubt that they would approve the quota plan for the 1940 crop by substantially more than the required two-thirds majority. The size of the majority, however, is significant. The cotton farmers voted a little better than nine to one in favor of crop control. With approximately two-thirds of the votes counted, 91 per cent were for regulating next year's cotton production.

This majority is considerably larger than the one by which the farmers approved the quota plan in last year's referendum. The majority then was 84 per cent. The year before that the percentage had been about the same.

The increase in the majority this year indicates an even wider acceptance of the principle of cotton control. It indicates also the realization among the growers that the problem of our surplus cotton is still a serious one, and that production control measures are essential to its solution.

The size of the majority is even more impressive in view of the fact that there were some elements in the situation which might conceivably have induced some farmers to want to plant cotton without restrictions next year. One of these is that, having voted to curtail production in the last two years, more farmers might have wished to do away with restrictions this time. Another is that because of the war situation, which may increase the demand for American cotton, some farmers might have wished to avoid crop regulation in the hope that they might profit from a larger production.

The fact that such considerations as these did not influence the growers attests to their good judgment. They did not overlook the fact that our cotton carryover of about 14,000,000 bales is the largest on record. As long as we have so great a surplus, there can be no hope of profit to the growers from larger production.

This is the third important victory for crop control in recent weeks. First the bright tobacco growers voted for control, and then the burley tobacco growers, both by strong majorities. Last year both groups of tobacco growers rejected crop control. While a majority of the tobacco growers voted for regulation of production in 1938, the vote fell short of the necessary two-thirds majority. The result of the rejection of control was that this year's tobacco crop, in both the bright and the burley fields, was the largest on record. The tobacco growers learned a lesson from that experience.

The cotton farmers have voted consistently for control every time they have had an opportunity to express their preferences. But after the invalidation of the original agricultural adjustment act and the subsequent repeal of the crop control laws, the cotton growers did not have an opportunity to vote on a control plan, and in 1937 they produced the largest cotton crop in history, approximately 19,000,000 bales. We are still trying to get rid of the surplus from that disastrous crop, and the only way to do it is to control production. Nobody knows this better than the farmers themselves, as their heavy majority for control in Saturday's referendum shows. The cotton growers are to be congratulated on their good judgment.

Augusta Ga., Chronicle
April 11, 1939

Double Prize Winners at Cattle Show



This is not a double exposure—there really are two little Negro boys sitting on that fence. They are Melvin and Milton Stevens of Woodville, Ga., whose steers won prizes in the Negro division of the fat cattle sale here. Melvin's steer won first place in the medium weight class, and also the grand championship of the Negro division. Milton's won second place in the heavyweight division. Which is left and which is right in this picture is up to Melvin and Milton. They couldn't decide, themselves. (Chronicle Staff Photo).

The Grand Champion of the entries made by Negroes in the Augusta Fat Cattle Show was won by Melvin Stephens, 8-year old colored boy.

Milton Stevens' entry won second place in heavy weight class.

The Grand Champion weighed 900 pounds and sold for 13.20 cents per pound.

The Stephens boys are twin brothers.

C. L. Tapley, Negro Agricultural Agent for Greene County, sponsored the exhibits from the Greene County Negro entries.

Atlanta Ga. Constitution
April 2, 1939

500 HEAD OF STOCK FROM TWO STATES TO VIE FOR PRIZES

Nearly $1,000 in Cash, Ribbons and Trophies Will Be Awarded.

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 1.—Fat cattle from two states will compete here Tuesday and Wednesday for nearly $1,000 in cash prizes, blue ribbons, silver trophies and premiums for home-bred animals.

The occasion is the third annual Augusta fat cattle show and sale sponsored by the Twin States Livestock Association, made up of 15 Georgia and 10 South Carolina counties, and the Augusta Chamber of Commerce.

More than 500 head of fat cattle are scheduled to be shown, according to the entry lists compiled by Dewey H. Johnson, president of the association, and C. B. Woolsey, of Aiken, S. C., general chairman of the show.

Kleberg To Speak.

A feature of the two-day event will be a banquet Tuesday night at which Representative Richard Kleberg, of Texas, manager of the world-famed, 1,250,000-acre King Ranch, largest beef cattle ranch in the nation, will be the guest speaker. A. H. Ward, of Aiken, district agent for the South Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, also will speak.

Chief interest in the livestock divisions is centered in the 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America classes. The youthful farmers in these two organizations will compete for identical prizes in separate divisions. Cash prizes totaling $165, blue ribbons, loving cups and an additional 25 per cent of the prize money won for all winning animals that are home-bred, are offered in the 4-H and FFA individual classes.

Prizes are also offered for the best beef type heifer, the best 4-H Club and best FFA record of an entry, pen classes, county group classes, Negro 4-H Club entries, and carlot classes.

Carlot Prizes.

In addition to seven cash prizes totaling $200 in the carlot classes, the association is offering a prize of $150 for the champion carlot and $50 for the reserve champion carlot, making a total of $400 to be competed for in the carlot classes. The extra prizes are offered as a special inducement to large producers to enter their cattle in the carlot classes.

The show will be judged by Dr. C. D. Lowe, of Washington, D. C., senior extension husbandman, Bureau of Animal Husbandry, Department of Agriculture.

Supervisors of the show and sale will be the beef cattle specialist of South Carolina and Georgia Agricultural Extension Services, J. R. Hawkins, of Clemson College, S. C., and R. E. Davis, of Athens.

Judges of the best record in the 4-H Club division will be Dan Lewis, South Carolina boys' club leader, and G. V. Cunningham, Georgia 4-H Club leader. In the FFA division, the judges will be Verd Peterson, South Carolina FFA supervisor, and L. M. Sheffer, Georgia FFA supervisor.

Cairo, Ga., Messenger
March 31, 1939

NEGRO FAT CATTLE SHOW SATURDAY.

The Negroes of Grady county had their first fat cattle show at the rear of the Courthouse here last Saturday afternoon and much interest was manifested.

Winners were Albert Brown, 1st; Elmer Wilson, 2nd; and Henry Holton, 3rd. Judges were Dr. F. S. Carr, Carl Godwin and Ladd Maxwell. The cash prizes were offered by the following Cairo merchants: Caro Furniture Co., Gandy Bros., Grady Pharmacy, Mixon's Grocery, Oliver Feed Mill, Jake Poller, Roddenbery Hardware Co., Wight Hardware Co., and Wight & Browne.

Greensboro, Ga., Herald-Journal
April 7, 1939

Greene Wins Honors At Show

Entries From Greene County Win $82.25 Of Prize Money

Macon Ga News
March 15, 1939

PROFITS AT SHOW TAKEN BY CLUBS

Boys and Girls Go Home After Selling Their Prize Winning Animals Here

After showing and selling their steers at the Macon Fat Cattle Show and Sale for the first two days of this week, club boys and girls of Middle Georgia returned to their homes yesterday afternoon.

Many of them settled at banks which financed them in purchase of purebred beef animals, and all of them realized profits for their work. The steers were auctioned at Jones-Neuhoff plant yesterday morning.

Winners Exhibited

During the afternoon the grand champion and other champions were exhibited at the intersection of Cherry and Third streets. For two hours or more shoppers, business men, housewives, janitors, police officers and other passersby stopped to look with interest at the husky Georgia-raised, and even Georgia-bred, animals.

Officials of the show, sponsored by the Macon Chamber of Commerce, were pleased with the quality of entries and interest manifested in the undertaking. Co-operating with the venture were county agents of middle Georgia, vocational teachers, banks and white and Negro boys and girls of Future Farmers of America and 4-H clubs.

Savannah Ga Press
April 27, 1939

COLLEGE TO HONOR WINNING FARMER

REGENTS TO SEE ACTIVITIES AT GEORGIA STATE SATURDAY

Peter Wilson, negro farmer of Bulloch county, who won a $500 prize in a state-wide farm contest, and his wife will be guests of honor at an Extension Day program to be held at the Georgia State College here May 8.

Wilson will be paid tribute as a farmer and he will be asked to tell how he made his farm so productive it won state-wide recognition in the "Plant to Prosper contest."

P. H. Stone, director of agricultural extension among negroes who has his office at the college, will be one of the speakers.

The college is preparing for the visit Saturday of the board of regents of the University System of Georgia, of which the local school is a part. The regents will visit the college about 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon and while the school ordinarily is not in session on Saturday it will be on that day so the students may see the students at work. Moving pictures will be taken by Richardson Jones of Atlanta when the regents visit the various departments, and Prof. B. F. Hubert plans to show the movies at colored high schools over the state so students may see the type of work done at the college.

The regents will see the work in progress on the farm shop and canning building and the recently completed masonry and printing building and select the site for the new home economics building to be erected at a cost of about $90,000. A tentative site near Hill Hall has been chosen by Chancellor S. V. Sanford. The board also will see the experimental crops of peanuts, sea island cotton, raimie beans, as well as the thirty acres of oats now ready for harvesting, the twenty-acre corn and velvet bean field, the truck farm, beef and dairy cattle, hogs and poultry farms. The college has 175 cockrels raised on the farm which are now ready for market.

Monroe Ga News
September 19 1939

AN INDUSTRIOUS NEGRO IS OSCAR L. STONE

Oscar L. Stone, who, for a number of years, with his family, resided on the Moon plantation, a few miles northeast of Monroe, is now a resident of Gwinnett county, Ga., and lives at what is known as the old Reeves place, the property of Miss Mary Brooks, of Loganville.

Oscar, first of all, is a colored man who believes in making his living at home. He, for many years, has raised his meat supply of sufficient quantity to take care of his own needs and has had some to sell.

This year, within a little better than three months until hog-killing time, Stone has four hogs that he confidently believes will weigh something like 1,000 pounds at this time. Besides that, he has a fine one out on halves—finer than either of the four mentioned.

He has his own chickens, cows and his crib and barn are well filled with corn and fodder, and he is yet to gather corn from 25 acres in which he has planted peas. He has fourteen acres in cotton and prides himself on having "put to flight" the boll weevils. He has but few of them having slain them after his own way of doing things. Up to last Thursday, when we saw him, Oscar had gathered eight full-size bales of cotton and is expecting to have fourteen when the harvest ends.

Stone says that in one day last week his daughter, Lorene Stone picked 408 pounds of cotton; another woman who, with her husband, lives on same plantation picked 345, and a negro man picking in same field had weighed to his credit, 321 pounds; his record.

Oscar is firm in the belief that but for dry weather, his crop would have been all the more satisfactory.

He is a churchman, devoted to Spring Hill A. M. E. Zion church at Campton, and when we saw him, he was having his faithful wife get the basket ready for his Saturday meeting. He is also well known in fraternal circles and serves as an official in a number of them.

We wish Walton county had many more negroes of Stone's calibre. There would be better times. He glories in work and gathering into barn."

Educator Who Knew Nothing About Agriculture Points Way for Negro

Birmingham News 6-4-39

His Race Can Lift Self Up By Own Boot Straps, Declares Dairyman Who Is Making Money

ATLANTA—(AP)—Dr. Winfred B. Nathan, 39-year-old Negro educator, holds four academic degrees, earned by study at eight colleges and universities in this country and Europe.

None of his study at the higher institutions, however, was in agriculture. Neither had this native of Jamaica, British West Indies, any practical experience in farming of any kind.

Yet 18 months ago, he quit his position as acting chairman of the department of education at the Atlanta University and took up dairy farming from scratch to prove something he had taught in the classroom for 12 years—in his own words, that:

Birmingham News

"A Negro does not have to go back to Africa to be self-sufficient economically. He does not have to go to the North, East or West. He can do it right here in the South—where freedom from slavery left him to find his fortune."

6-4-39

Nathan has proved this contention, he says, to his satisfaction. To convince others who may have doubts, he offers the following statements:

From an investment of approximately $33,000—roughtly $25,000 in cash and the rest in mortgage loans or other credit—he has in a year and a half been able to develop a modern 100-acre, 90-cow dairy valued at $60,000.

At the same time, he has met all his obligations and earned a satisfactory salary.

He is furnishing profitable employment to 17 workmen, good living quarters and good living conditions to five families.

As creditable as this achievement may be, Dr. Nathan regards it only as a demonstration of what can be done. It must be repeated with variations a thousand times over, he asserts, if the Negro's contribution to American civilization is to survive.

Birmingham News

"There was a time," he says, "when we were bequeathed large sums by generous persons and philanthropic agencies to foster the social and intellectual development of the Negro. But these donations will become less and less until they are no more. Many Negro institutions are then likely to find themselves with a tremendous overhead but with no funds to carry on. If we are not to lose the services which these institutions can give our young people, we must create wealth in order to support them."

This further general observation:

"It is quite possible for us to become a productive race, because we have the strength and ability to work. What is needed is an exodus of trained youth from our economic and industrial institutions that will take the initiative in creating small economic units that will provide work for skilled and unskilled people."

Birmingham News

With that, Dr. Nathan outlined the following suggestions, drawn, he said, from his years of study and his recent practical experience:

"1. With the proper training, the Negro is able to do anything that anybody else can.

"2. 'Proper training' does not mean he must go to Cornell University, for instance, to get a Ph. D. in agriculture. It means learning by doing—in other words, free exercise of his intelligence and common sense in a life situation. Then there should be many more business enterprises for Negroes than there are.

"3. Racial lines would be forgotten in these industries. The Negro should learn to compete in industry and business. If he makes better brick than anyone else, he will find a market for his brick. White men will buy his product, but, mind you, only if it offers a competitive value. I know because I am selling 20 gallons of milk a day to white users.

"4. The semi-illiterate Negro is anxious for leadership and is ready to give his full cooperation to efforts for his advancement. Therefore, it behooves our institutions and those who have benefited by the training they give to provide the leadership. Especially do we need advancement in such technical fields as baking, weaving, the raising, slaughtering and marketing of livestock, in industrial farming and food manufacture.

Birmingham News

"5. And, finally, these industries can be financed. Some Negroes have considerable money, others less. They can pool their resources and get backing from government agencies or local banks. There must be strict attention to developing integrity and honesty. Members of our race will attract capital and backing in proportion as they establish confidence in the investing as well as the buying public."

6-4-39

If a man is a financial success people overlook the means that make him so.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

GEORGIA

Florence, S. C., Morning News
June 6, 1939

Negro Educator Turns Farmer To Show What Race Can Do In South

ATLANTA, Ga., June 5 —(AP) — Dr. Winfred B. Nathan, 39-year-old negro educator, holds four academic degrees, earned by study at eight colleges and universities in this country and Europe

None of his study at the higher institutions, however, was in agriculture. Neither had this native of Jamaica, British West Indes, any practical experience in farming of any kind.

Yet 18 months ago, he quit his position as acting chairman of the department of education at the Atlanta University and took up dairy farming from scratch to prove something he had taught in the class-room for 11 years—in his own words, that:

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Nathan has proved this contention, he says, to his satisfaction. To convince others who may have doubts, he offers the following statements:

From an investment of approximately $33,000—roughly $25,000 in cash and the rest in mortgage loans or other credit—he has in a year and a half been able to develop a modern, 100-acre, 90-cow dairy valued at $60,000.

At the same time, he has met all his obligations and earned a satisfactory salary.

He is furnishing profitable employment to 17 workmen, good living quarters and good living conditions to five families.

As creditable as this achievement may be, Dr. Nathan regards it only as a demonstration of what can be done. It must be repeated with variations a thousand times over he asserts, if the negro's contribution to American civilization is to survive.

"There was a time," he says, "when we were bequeathed large sums by generous persons and philanthropic agencies to foster the social and intellectual development of the negro. But these donations will become less and less until they are no more. Many negro institutions are then likely to find themselves with a tremendous overhead but with no funds to carry on. If we are not to lose the services which these institutions can give our young people we must create wealth in order to support them."

This further general observation:

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"For example, I can go to any local bank and borrow $1,000 to buy cattle. The reason is that they know I mean business, that I am attending to my business and I mean to repay the loan."

Nathan did not know anything about dairying when he took it up. Since then he has learned many things—that it requires system, close supervision, rigid sanitation, a knowledge of animal husbandry, feed crop production and land improvement. Other negroes, he emphasized, must learn similar lessons in this or any other field if they are to succeed.

His plant is located within five miles of Atlanta. It has a $3,500 deep well water system, sterilization appartus, a $3,000 refrigeration system, filter room, laboratory for butterfat testing and bacteria counts and other modern aids. Up to date equipment, he finds, is a requisite in any business nowadays.

Dr. Nathan provides a garden tract for winter and summer vegetables for each of the families he employes. He furnishes mule power to till the garden. Each family has a cow of its own and some also have hogs and goats. Schooling is encouraged—almost made compulsory—not only for children but also for adults unable to read and write.

The educator says that although he has found success and profit in dairying and regards it as an activity that could be copied by members of his race in many communities, there are other fields of equal or perhaps greater promise.

"For instance," he says, "I already have had plans drawn for a au age factory. Then there should be large profits in a milk candy business.

"Other sections have made such enterprises pay rich profits. They have less God-given sunshine and other advantages that we. So why shouldn't we do as well or better?"

Ripley, Tenn. Enterprise
June 9, 1939

EDUCATOR BECOMES A FARMER TO SHOW WHAT NEGRO CAN DO

ATLANTA, Ga., June 3.—(AP)—Dr. Winfred B. Nathan, 39-year-old negro educator, holds four academic degrees, earned by study at eight colleges and universities in this country and Europe.

None of his study at the higher institutions, however, was in agriculture. Neither had this native of Jamaica, British West Indies, any practical experience in farming of any kind.

Yet 18 months ago, he quit his position as acting chairman of the Department of Education at the Atlanta University and took up dairy farming from scratch to prove something he had taught in the classroom for 11 years—in his own words, that:

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"There was a time," he says, "when we were bequeathed large sums by generous persons and philanthropic agencies to foster the social and intellectual development of the negro. But these donations are no more. Many negro institutions are then likely to find themselves with a tremendous overhead but with no funds to carry on. If we are not to lose the services which these institutions can give our young people, we must create wealth in order to support them."

This further general observation:

"It is quite possible for us to become a productive race, because we have the strength and ability to work. What is needed is an exodus of trained youth from our economic and industrial institutions that will take the initiative in creating small economic units that will provide work for skilled and unskilled people."

The educator says that although he has found success and profit in dairying and regards it as an activity that could be copied by members of his race in many communities, there are other fields of equal or perhaps greater promise.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
June 4, 1939

Educator Becomes A Farmer To Show What Negro Can Do

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Must Create Wealth

"There was a time," he says, "when we were bequeathed large sums by generous persons and philanthropic agencies to foster the social and intellectual development of the negro. But these donations will become less and less until they are no more. Many negro institutions are then likely to find themselves with a tremendous overhead but with no funds to carry on. If we are not to lose the services which these institutions can give our young people, we must create wealth in order to support them."

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The educator says that although he has found success and profit in dairying and regards it as an activity that could be copied by members of his race in cre-ating small economic units that will provide work for skilled and unskilled people."

$925 An Acre

There should be a suggestion and an inspiration for many a Georgia farmer in the feat accomplished by R. H. Holmes, manager of the State Agricultural College's horticultural farm By a simple, home devised system of irrigation, he made a run-down, hillside farm yield a cash return of $925 an acre from turnip greens selling for only four or five cents a pound.

It is unnecessary here to go into detail as to the irrigation methods used by Mr. Holmes. Suffice it to say they are so simple that anyone, with the slightest ingenuity, can adapt them to any particular conditions of land.

Too many farmers of the southeast have tended to lose hope and abandon effort when changing conditions of nature or of economics have disrupted the time honored methods of land cultivation. Man must be adaptive to changing circumstances if he is to hope for success in the annual struggle to wrest new wealth from the soil.

This is proved in the history of every agricultural region. It is inevitable that land shall change in its chemical composition, in its suitability and productivity as crops are taken off it year after year. The wisest and best farmer follows an ever adaptable system of farming, with rotation of crops, diversity of product and constant readiness to change. Without these factors, the conservative, unimaginative and hidebound tiller of the soil is doomed to the servitude of poverty. With them, he can make himself independently rich. Witness the run-down hillside lands, the irrigation and the turnip greens of Manager Holmes.

Reducing Farm Tenancy

Five hundred Georgia families have been removed from tenancy and put on farms which will support them and, with reasonably good management, will liquidate the obligations assumed by the new occupants. The number is small, when compared with the total of farm families in the state, but the transaction is significant and is important as an example of what may be accomplished by teamwork between individual and government.

As to the force of example and of kindled ambition, R. L. Vansant, who is director of the Farm Security Administration in Georgia, says that while it took two years to place the 500, more than 600 families now are eager applicants for the transition from tenancy to independence.

The 500 acquired their farms through provisions of the Bankhead-Jones act. They have been provided with loans at a low rate of interest and are to repay them in annual installments on schedules that may be extended over 40 years. In addition to the loans, they have been given assistance by farm and home economics experts of the government and directed on the road to self sufficiency.

Mr. Vansant pointed out that during the first year of the program an average of $3,463 was loaned to each family to purchase farms averaging 135 acres, and to make necessary improvements. The second year the average was $4,155 for each family and the farms were slightly larger. The first year the total improvements to the farms purchased totaled $146,301, while the second year they were $588,526.

In these latter figures is a pertinent example of the value this program will be to the state. The improvements will add to the tax revenues of the local governments, and the farms, which in many cases have been lying idle and washing away, will be reclaimed and made to produce wealth.

It is in the families themselves, however, rather than in the land, that Georgia will reap its dividends. Becoming financially independent, they will become stable. They will have the opportunity to take places of equality among the citizens of their community and contribute towards its progress. Their children, in contrast to many of those of the tenant class, will have better chances for schooling and generally will have brighter prospects to grow into substantial citizens.

In 1880 only 25 per cent of America's farm population was of the tenant class. By 1935 this figure had increased to 42 per cent. The South led the nation with 54 per cent, and Georgia had a total of 65 per cent of its farm people in tenancy.

In the light of these figures, the work of the Security Administration in Georgia is of prime importance. And the announcement by Mr. Vansant that 27,000 Georgians have made applications for farm loans is an encouraging sign for the future.—Atlanta Journal.

Cordele Ga. Dispatch
December 3, 1939

Georgia Negro Answers Question, 'Can Farmnig Pay?'

(Editor's note: Negroes have acquired the 900-acre farm in Hancock county on which the mother of Benjamin F. Hubert, president of the Georgia State College, was born as a slave. He said the purpose of the project will be to seek an answer to the question "can farming be made to pay? Can farm life be made sufficiently attractive that young people will want to remain on the farms?" The program is outlined in the following article:

By BENJAMIN F. HUBERT,
President, Georgia State College

SPARTA, Ga., Dec. 2.—AP — On November 14, negroes came into the possession of an additional tract of land containing 900 acres, in the Log Cabin community, this farm, formerly the Hillman estate, is considered one of the finest farms in Middle Georgia. The farm was once the home of the late Camilla Hubert, mother of the Hubert children who pioneered in establishing the Log Cabin community center as a demonstration of what negroes may do for themselves to improve economic and social conditions in the rural south.

On this farm, one of the prize estates of Hancock county, are two large streams and several smaller streams of excellent water in which fish ponds were once established, there are 2,000,000 feet of pine timber. The 150 acre of bottom land produce from 50 to 75 bushels of corn per acre without fertilization. There is plenty of pasture land with carpet and bermuda grass already seeded, there is a beautiful home built over 100 years ago, with 12 rooms built out of yellow pine. There are several barns and outhouses and one additional settlement.

William Heath will take charge on January 1. He is a native of Warren county, adjoining Hancock, and has a remarkable record as a farmer. On a place less favored than the Hancock county project, Heath produced 500 bushels of corn, 55 bales of cotton, 300 bushels of oats, 137 bushels of wheat, 108 bushels of peas, 75 gallons of syrup five tons of velvet beans and five tons of hay.

Heath has 15 hogs, plenty of chickens and other things necessary to make life comfortable on the farm.

Heath's objectives in the future provide for the production of large quantities of feed for cattle and other livestock, the opening up and re-seeding of permanent pasturess, and the utilization of the timber lands.

Tractors and improved modern machinery will serve to lighten and expedite farm work.

Pure-bred Hereford beef cattle will be used as one of the main sources of farm income. Electric lights have been installed, and all modern improvements will be made to demonstrate how a farm in Middle Georgia can offer economic and social satisfactions that will make life for negroes on the farms of Georgia worthwhile.

Plans at the Log Cabin community call for the expansion of this community to include several thousand additional acres of land in adjoining neighborhoods that are not now being profitably farmed.

The Georgia State College is following closely the developments in this and other communities in Georgia where experiments in soil building, cattle breeding and community progress in church and school offer worthwhile suggestions as to how life on the farms of Georgia may be made satisfying to negroes who desire to remain on the farms of the southland

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

Negro Teacher Blazes Trail as Farmer

Educator Leaves Class-Room To Show What Race Can Do; Doubles Investment in 18 Months

By The Associated Press.

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None of his study at the higher institutions, however, was in agriculture. Neither had this native of Jamaica, British West Indies, any practical experience in farming of any kind.

Stars From Scratch.

Yet 18 months ago, he quit his position as acting chairman of the department of education at the Atlanta University and took up dairy farming from scratch to prove something he had taught in the classroom for 11 years—in his own words, that:

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Doubles Value.

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Only an Example.

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Strength and Ability.

"It is quite possible for us to become a productive race, because we have the strength and ability to work. What is needed is an exodus of trained youth from our economic and industrial institutions that will take the initiative in creating small economic units that will provide work for skilled and unskilled people."

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"2. 'Proper training' does not mean he must go to Cornell University, for instance, to get a Ph. D. in agriculture. It means learning by doing—in other words, free exercise of his intelligence and common sense in a life situation. Therefore, there should be many more business enterprises for negroes than there are.

There's a Market.

"3. Racial lines should be forgotten in these industries. The negro should learn to compete in industry and business. If he makes better brick than anyone else, he will find a market for his brick. White men will buy his product but, mind you, only if it offers a competitive value. I know because I am selling 20 gallons of milk a day to white users.

"4. The semi-literate negro is anxious for leadership and is ready to give his full co-operation to efforts for his advancement. Therefore, it behooves our institutions and those who have benefited by the training they give to provide the leadership. Especially do we need advancement in such technical fields as baking, weaving, the raising, slaughtering and marketing of livestock, in industrial farming and food manufacture.

"Can Raise Money."

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"Why Shouldn't We?"

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"For instance," he says, "I already have had plans drawn for a sausage factory. Then there should be large profits in a milk candy business.

"Other sections have made such enterprises pay rich profits. They have less God-given sunshine and other advantages than we. So why shouldn't we do as well or better?"

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
June 4, 1939

TURNS FARMER TO AID NEGRO

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DEVELOPS DAIRY.

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HAVE ABILITY.

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Farming Will Pay Profit, Georgia Grower Finds Out

By PAUL SIMMONS

ATLANTA, Ga., June 17.—Richards F. Sams Jr. took an acre on a red Georgia hillside and grew 3000 bushels of spinach in one crop. Another acre yielded him 15 tons of tomatoes.

Spinach ought to bring 15 cents a bushel wholesale and choice tomatoes not less than $100 a tone. The rest is simple mathematics.

Cotton Income Cited

Other farmers in Georgia — throughout the South, for that matter—are tending land potentially no richer than Mr. Sams' and struggling to produce 250 pounds of lint cotton per acre. With cotton selling at [illegible] pound, it's not hard to figure that out, either.

Georgia probably produces no more than half the vegetables sold in her stores and markets.

"And yet, paradoxically enough," says Mr. Sams, "there are so many farmers growing vegetables in Georgia that few of them are making any money. The reason is lack of proper grading, packaging and distribution. This can be remedied."

Mr. Sams has remedied it on his 250-acre farm 10 miles from Atlanta, although he never intended to be a farmer. He started out, in 1913, to be a chemical engineer. It took him three years to decide there was more for him on a Georgia hillside than in the oil laboratories of the East.

He has done so well on the farm that the Vegetable Growers Association of America twice elected him president, in 1934 and 1935. He is now head of the state association.

Started Diversification

He started with 30 acres and a house. He made some money from cotton in 1918, but began forthwith to replace cotton with diversified crops.

Since 1920, he has grown no cotton at all, dividing his annual crop as follows: 60 acres of peaches, 30 acres of strawberries, 25 acres of collards, 15 acres of tomatoes, from 20 to 25 acres each of spinach and turnips, several acres of broccoli, young berries, raspberries and a few other crops.

He has kept on a "pay-as-you-go" basis, expanding as profits came in. He now has nearly 200 of his 250 acres under cultivation, nearly 100 acres irrigated, partly with a pipe system and partly by canals.

Improvements include a $3500 hothouse, a $10,000 irrigation system and a $3000 ice house and refrigeration system.

He employs from 50 to 250 men and women during the Spring and Summer. Ten families live on his farm and there is enough work, even in the winter, for 10 men.

Two Requisites

Mr. Sams knows, he says, because he has demonstrated it, that a farm can be made to provide an American standard of living for its workmen. His requisites are co-operation and research.

"The hothouse vegetable production industry in Ohio," he observes, "has grown so fast and been so successful because the growers have swapped ideas and helped each other. The few who thought they knew so much they would keep their ideas to themselves lost out when new diseases and fertilizer problems appeared.

Co-operation is particularly essential, he says, in marketing.

"Marketing must be efficient and economical. Production must be keyed to what the market will take. All this is a job for a marketing expert—a $5000-a-year man.

"That's where the rub comes. 'He's getting $5000 and we are getting $500,' the average farmer would say. 'We are doing all the hard work, too. Tain't fair.'

"Therefore, I do not have any too much hope for the mass of the fellows who are now on the farm. They could make four or five times more working for somebody else than for themselves and it seems to me that we are going to have to look to business men to solve the problem. And it may not be long, either, before that happens."

NEGRO FARM CO-OP FORMS IN BARTOW

Group To Encourage Home Consumption Growing.

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

CARTERSVILLE, Ga., Oct. 14.—Said to be one of the first ever attempted along such lines, negro farmers of Bartow county have organized a co-operative production and marketing association, with [illegible] S. Morgan as director and Edd Hardy as president.

The group's ultimate aim is for each member to produce enough of all farm commodities for home consumption and have a surplus to sell throughout the year.

Classes will be held throughout the winter to teach the members more about production, grading and marketing farm products.

Monroe, Ga., News
October 3, 1939

ANOTHER INDUSTRIOUS NEGRO IN COUNTY

Steve Morrow, colored, to whom we, a few days ago, delivered a set of "neatly printed" minutes, issued in behalf of one of the fraternal organizations to which he belongs, and in which he serves so acceptably as treasurer, is another of Walton's industrious, substantial, reliable citizens.

At one time Morrow held deeds to over five hundred acres of fertile lands, but fearful that he was to become "land poor," within recent years, he sold off something like half of this amount and now has something like 250 acres, and from what we can learn, practically all of lying next to the Apalachee river, near the old Reeves Mill, a few miles southeast of Bold Springs, is as good soil as can be found in Walton county, lands that, by hard labor and best judgment on the part of Morrow and his children, has been built up.

The sloping hills, level lands and picturesque surroundings otherwise, makes Morrow's home a very imposing structure, built in 1909, a decided show place for his section.

This year, Morrow has something like 40 acres in cotton. He expects to garner more than a bale to the acre from several of these acres. Although cut short by a dry streak, he expects to get "full cribs" from his more than forty acres planted in corn. He made something over fifty bushels of wheat—more than that, counting in some losses. He harvested six or eight tons of lespedeza; he has plenty of meat to do him until killing time again, and will have ample supply for 1940, if nothing unforeseen happens to his porkers. He has a number of fine mules and several good cows; keeps on hand the year 'round plenty of milk and butter and poultry, and today has several big barrels of syrup of former years making, and has a nice orchard from which he gathered some nice fruit this year and from his garden realizes enough vegetables to meet the needs of his family, composed of his wife, four sons and a grandson. One son lives nearby, owns his own home and makes a good living.

Morrow's home is well furnished and is kept in spic and span order. He has a radio and gets all the programs he will tune in to hear, day and night. He is a churchman, for many years serving as an official in the Tanner's Bridge Baptist church, and holds membership with a number of other benevolent organizations.

Would that we had many more negroes like Steve Morrow.

Wetumpka, Ala., Herald
December 7, 1939

Negro Renter Operates Big Sumter Farm

A NEGRO farmer, Carroll Jones, who lives near Geiger in Sumter County, is an outstanding member of his race in the county and has proven that by hard work, good management, thrift and proper land use that a Negro farmer has as good opportunity to prosper as any one else.

Carroll operates a 3,500 acre farm which he leases and he has been on this same farm 17 years. He first started out growing only cotton and corn as the main crops, but as conditions changed and cotton proved less profitable he changed his system and gradually added more livestock, put more land in pasture and hay and devoted less to cotton.

At the present time Carroll has all the land in pasture and hay with the exception of about 400 acres on which he plants about 100 acres of cotton and the other in corn, soybeans, potatoes, etc. He usually makes about 60 bales of cotton and 2,000 to 3,000 bushels of corn, but this year on account of unfavorable weather he is making only 40 bales of cotton and 1,500 bushels of corn.

His main cash crops now are beef calves and mule colts. He has 225 high grade brood cows and eight registered Hereford bulls in his herd. Also, he has started a registered Hereford herd and has about 30 registered cows and heifers. There are 30 brood mares on his farm from which he raises an average of 20 mule colts a year. Each year he sells 15 to 20 young home raised mules. He keeps a good jack and a registered standard bred stallion. He also has some registered Poland China hogs to raise plenty of meat to supply farm needs and a surplus to sell.

Carroll has cooperated fully with the AAA program and has taken advantage of the opportunities offered for soil building practices. Much of the land on this farm has been terraced, pastures have been seeded and fertilized and a number of acres of vetch planted each year under the program.

"His record is an inspiration to other Negro farmers. Since 4,000 of the 4,700 farmers in Sumter County are Negroes they must learn to adapt themselves to a sound diversified farming program as Carroll has done for the agriculture and business of this county to prosper," comments W. B. Story county agent.

Farmer, Who Varies Crops, Ranks With South's Best

Timothy Catchings Attributes Success to Always Having something to Sell Rather Than to Buy Was Winner In Plant-to-Prosper Contest

CAMILLA, Ga., Feb. 16 —(Special)—Timothy Catchings, prosperous land-owning farmer residing near here, and one of the winners in the Statewide Plant-To-Prosper Contest, is being pointed out as the shining example of the fallacy in the claim made by many farmers, both colored and white, that they cannot make a living under the present farm control program.

No cotton and peanut farmer, but a firm believer in diversification and variety of crops, Catchings attributes his success to the rule he long ago established for himself that every time he went to town he would have something to sell instead of something to buy. He was one of Mitchell county's first truck farmers and is a firm believer in and practitioner of modern farming methods.

His products, always of the highest quality, find a ready market. They include fresh vegetables and fruits in summer; canned vegetables and fruits, smoked meats, syrup, lard, butter, poultry and eggs the year round. Cotton and peanuts on his farm, are secondary money crops. He and his wife, their one child, a son, and two grandchildren do all the work except during rush seasons when he employs outside help by the day, temporarily. Practically all the food for himself and his family is produced on his lands. About the only thing they buy is shoes and clothing, in addition to farm equipment. Next to vegetables, his principal crop is tobacco. This season he sold his tobacco crop for $1,100.

During the past year Catchings has not only repaired and modernized his own home, but has built a tenant house and planted a pecan orchard, besides adding to his fruit tree acreages. When a rural electrification organization built a line through his section of the county, he was the first customer to have the current turned on at his home. He now plans to add some electrically driven machinery to his farm equipment for the prupose of saving time and labor. Already an electric refrigerator, electric pump, electric washing machine and a radio are installed at his home. His gross income from all sources in 1938 was more than $3,000. Catchings who keeps a complete set of accounts and can tell at a glance how he stands financially and exactly how much he has grossed and netted on every transaction, is regarded as one of the best farmers in all Southwest Georgia.

Ft. Valley, Ga. Leader-Tribune
February 23, 1939

HAM AND EGG SHOW MARCH 2-3

The 22nd annual ham and egg show for Negro farmers will be held Thursday and Friday, March 2 and 3 at the Fort Valley N. and I. school.

Speakers on the program will include R. P. Swan, county agent; H. W. Jones, supervisor, Peach-Houston counties; Mrs. Inez Fagan, home supervisor, Peach-Houston counties; and officials of the farm security department; T. M. Campbell, field agent extension work, Tuskegee Institute; Jones Purcell, swine specialist of the Central of Georgia Railway; Amos Ward, supervisor of the Flint River resettlement project; A. M. Fields, farm manager; L. E. Farmer, state marketing specialist; H. E. Bryant, vocational teacher.

A barbecue dinner will be served both days.

An address will be made by W. T. Anderson, editor of the Macon Telegraph, on Friday.

$15.00 will be awarded for the best ham displayed and $10.00 for the second best. $50.00 in cash and various other prizes will be awarded for excellence in other exhibits.

There will be 300 fine hickory smoked hams, 75 dozen selected eggs and one whole cured hog on exhibition for show and sale.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
March 2, 1939

NEGROES IN ANNUAL HAM AND EGG SHOW

FORT VALLEY, Ga., March 2. For the twenty-fifth year Peach and Houston County negro farmers today joined the U. S. Extension Department with a program and exhibit of fine hams and select eggs from Peach and Houston farms.

Otis S. O'Neal, negro county agent, arranged the meeting in Fort Valley Thursday and Friday.

W. T. Anderson, of the Macon Telegraph, was one of the speakers and others included H. Ward, of the Flint River Resettlement Project; P. H. Stone, state agent of negro extension; Dr. J. S. Clark, president-emeritus, Southern University, Baton Rouge, La.

Waynesboro, Ga. Citizen
March 3, 1939

Possibilities of Negro Farmers

(BY R. L. YOUNG)

A visit to the Thompson farm near Augusta, Ga., gives one a new insight into the possibilities of the negro farmers.

Immediately upon arriving at the Thompson farm one can readily see that he has arrived at a place where good farming practices have been put into operation.

This farm is located about three miles of the Augusta City limits on the banks of the Savannah river. The soil is the last word in fertility and is in a high state of cultivation. Noting the very fine state of pulverization of the soil. One would naturally become interested in his machinery and farm power, he then would need to go and visit the tool shed where he will find three tractors, two mounted on rubber and one on steel, and every conceivable modern plow and harrow that can be used on the farm. Leaving the tool shed you will visit his barn where twenty-three able bodied mules and three horses are kept to furnish the other farm power. One will not be amazed at the fertility of the soil when he recognizes the fact that Mr. Thompson keeps a large number of live stock, the normal number of cattle being about seven hundred. He has now one hundred steers in the fatting pen, Herford, Short Horn, Jersey and a few scrubs. He is also a large swine raiser, hundreds of fat hogs can be found in his pasture at all times, due to the fact that he furnishes practically all the barbecue stock for Richmond county. While on Mr. Thompson's farm, cotton and some of all the other crops can be found, his chief money crops are cattle, hogs, and hay. With the above facts in mind one would want to know something of the personality behind such an organization.

Mr. Thompson is about forty years of age, unmarried, he is a high school graduate from the Paine College, with no formal agricultural training, nevertheless in conversation with Mr. Thompson one would possibly conclude that he holds his M. S. degree from one of our best Western Agriculture Colleges. While in appearance he is just an every day farmer who spends several days a week on his job.

Statesboro, Georgia—Herald
March 23, 1939

Bulloch Negro Wins $500 In State Contest

BULLOCH NEGRO IS PROUD WINNER IN ATLANTA CONSTITUTION'S STATE - WIDE CONTEST

It was a far cry from the modest share-cropper in 1920 to a land-owner and 1938 winner of the $500 award for being the best negro farmer in Georgia for Eddie Wilson, whose 268 acre farm lies just southeast of Statesboro.

The 40-year-old owner of the tract with its 124 cultivated acres and the 144 he has in timber was anxious when Constitution representatives visited him along with J. W. Gaskin, assistant Bulloch county agent and J. T. Davis, the manager of the office of Byon Dyer, Bulloch County agent. He "hoped" he would win.

Proudly, Wilson exhibited his farm, his spotlessly kept home ad his "adulterated" hogs and cattle.

COTTON MINOR CROP

Cotton was a minor crop for Wilson's acres. His live stock sales netted him $950, while he received only $735 for his cotton. In discussing farming, the winner was somewhat philosophic and voiced an often repeated policy in the art of profitable farming.

"If any farmer grows what he needs and changes his crops around using all his waste lands and adding a little fertilizer to his crops, he can make a profit from his farm.

"A good practice is to always carry something to town to exchange for what you need instead of going to town with an empty wagon and coming back with one full all the year, we will come back in the fall with an empty pocketbook and a big debt to start on next year."

SAVED AS A SHARECROPPER

When the bottom fell out of what seemed to the "world of 1930" Wilson had saved a little money. He decided while the depression was at its height in 1931 that he would go into "farming myself." I took some money I saved as a sharecropper and I bought my first land then.

"I made money from the start because I didn't buy anything I could raise and I grew everything I could raise and I grew everything we needed."

His accomplishments in 1938 is a story of farm achievements in 1938 is a story of farm achievement, and the white men who have helped to guide him are proud of his record.

Stock and hogs brought Wilson $950 last year; hogs mathered largely by a hybrid sow named "Bessie," who produced three litters containing 34 pigs in 1938, $850 is the total. He made 16 bales of cotton on 21 acres of land and "had a bad year."

From the proceeds of last years income, Wilson decided he wanted another 73 acres to add to the land he already had and bought them. He has placed 20 acres in cultivation and the remainder in timber, which brought him a large part of his $3,000 farm profits for last year. Eddie Wilson says he is going to take part of the $500 he has just won and put up a new fence and use the rest to improve his farm generally.

Part of it will go into plumbing system for his home to replace the well. Wilson's home is spotless. Long lines of jars of canned vegetables and fruits line the shelves in kitchen and a pretty wood range, is in the kitchen.

Augusta Ga. Chronicle
April 2, 1939

LIVESTOCK SHOW TO HAVE RECORD LIST OF ENTRIES

More Than 25 Head of Cattle Expected From 25 Counties of Two States

TEXAN BANQUET SPEAKER

Attractive Cash Prizes Offered in 4-H Club, FFA Individual Classes

Over 700 head of fat cattle from 25 counties in Georgia and South Carolina will converge upon Augusta Tuesday and Wednesday to compete for nearly $1,000 in cash prizes, blue ribbons, silver trophies and premiums for home-bred animals.

The occasion is the third annual Augusta Fat Cattle Show and Sale, sponsored by the Twin State Livestock association, made up of 15 Georgia and 10 South Carolina counties, and the Augusta Chamber of Commerce.

More cattle than ever entered in a previous show are scheduled to be exhibited, according to the entry list compiled by Dewey H. Johnson, president of the Twin States Livestock association, and C. B. Woolsey, of Aiken, S. C., general chairman of the show this year.

CONGRESSMAN TO SPEAK

A feature of the two-day event will be a banquet Tuesday night at the Richmond hotel at which Congressman Richard Kleberg, of Texas, manager of the world-famed, 1,250,000-acre King ranch, largest beef cattle ranch in the nation, will be the guest speaker. Audley H. Ward, of Aiken, district agent for the South Carolina agricultural extension service, will share the speakers' platform with the Corpus Christi solon.

Chief interest in the livestock divisions is centered in the 4-H club and Future Farmers of America classes. The youthful farmers in these two organizations will compete for identical prizes in separate divisions. Cash prizes totalling $165, blue ribbons, loving cups and an additional 25 per cent of the prize money won for all winning animals that are home-bred, are offered in the 4-H and FFA individual classes.

OTHER PRIZES

Prizes are also offered for the best beef-type heifer, the best 4-H club and best FFA record of an entry, pen classes, county group classes, Negro 4-H club entries and car-lot classes.

In addition to seven cash prizes totalling $200 in the car-lot classes, the Twin States association is offering a prize of $150 for the champion car-lot and $50 for the reserve champion car-lot, making a total of $400 to be competed for in the car-lot classes. The extra prizes are offered as a special inducement to large producers to enter their cattle in the car-lot classes.

The show will be judged by Dr. C. D. Lowe, of Washington, D. C., senior extension husbandman, bureau of animal husbandry, department of agriculture.

G. Cleve Smith, proprietor of annual show and sales, said last night that two truck-loads of prize cattle grown by Negro 4-H club boys in Glascock and Greene counties arrived at his yards late yesterday to compete in the show.

"These little Negro boys will really make a fine showing in the show. Their cattle are as fat and nice as any of the first 10 prize winners in the first show held here and should take some of the awards this year," he said.

Supervisors will be the beef cattle specialist of South Carolina and Georgia agricultural extension services, J. R. Hawkins, of Clemson College, S. C., and R. E. Davis, of Athens.

Judges of the best record in the 4-H club division will be Dan Lewis, South Carolina boys' club leader, and G. V. Cunningham, Georgia 4-H club leader. In the FFA division, the judges will be Verd Peterson, South Carolina FFA supervisor, and L. M. Sheffer, Georgia FFA supervisor.

Following the Augusta show, fat cattle exhibits will be held at the April 11-12; LeGrange, April 13-14; and Atlanta, April 18-19.

AGRICULTURE*- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
June 16, 1939

MERIT SYSTEM FOR GAME WARDENS

Georgia game wardens will be selected under a merit system similar to one used for the state highway patrol, according to announcement made by Charles N. Elliott, shortly after he was sworn in Monday as acting director of the division of wild life.

He said 200 men would be picked from applications and brought to Atlanta for study in wild life propagation and protection. Out of these from 60 to 75 would be selected by a competitive examination for appointment as wardens.

Mr. Elliott, who had been director of the division of state parks, took the new position under a reorganization plan which promises much for the propagation and protection of our wild life. It is generally agreed that Mr. Elliott will do his best to eliminate the blight of politics from this important service.

We have been almost at a standstill here in Georgia for many years because of the political aspect of this great work. Hundreds of fishermen are now looking forward with great enthusiasm to the rejuvenation of wild life protection and propagation.

No better model could be taken than that of the state highway patrol. Its recent work in preventing a lynching in a middle Georgia county was but one of many evidences of the fine training the patrol has received. Its immediate work of preventing accidents on the highways is also yielding fine returns.

It will be a great day for Georgia when the game wardens are on the same high plane.
—Macon Telegraph

Columbus Ga Enquirer-Sun
June 16, 1939

GAME WARDENS UNDER MERIT SYSTEM

The decision of Charles N. Elliott, acting director of the division of wild life, to install a merit system for the appointment of game wardens in Georgia will meet with general approval throughout the state.

The system used in selecting the wardens, explained the new director, will be similar to that employed in choosing members of the Georgia state patrol. Mr. Elliott stated that 200 men would be selected and given training in Atlanta so that they might study wild life propagation and protection.

A competitive examination will then be given and 60 to 75 appointments will be made.

The former director of the division of state parks, says the Macon Telegraph, "took the new position under a reorganization plan, which promises much for the propagation and protection of wild life."

"It is generally agreed," continues the Macon paper, "that Mr. Elliott will do his best to eliminate the blight of politics from this important service.

"We have been almost at a standstill here in Georgia for many years because of the political aspect of this great work. Hundreds of fishermen are now looking forward with great enthusiasm to the rejuvenation of wild life protection and propagation.

"No better model could be taken than that of the state highway patrol. Its recent work in preventing a lynching in a Middle Georgia county was but one of many evidences of the fine training the patrol has received. Its immediate work of preventing accidents on the highways is also yielding fine returns.

"It will be a great day for Georgia when the game wardens are on the same high plane."

The biggest fault found with the system that has been employed so long in Georgia in the appointment of game wardens was that political considerations outweighed actual qualifications of the applicant in a great many instances.

However, it appears to be the intention of the new director of wild life to see to it that every warden in the state of Georgia knows a great deal about the duties of the job that he assumes.

The success of the work of the division will depend in large degree upon the care in selecting the game wardens.

BACK TO EARTH

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
September 10, 1939

Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God."—Thomas Jefferson.

By WALTER PASCHALL

News that the hog market is on the rise will be welcome in Brooks County, where we found on a brief visit that the war has tempered conversation but has not at all disturbed the unbeatable south Georgia way of life.

There's no telling how long hogs have been a major farm product in that neighborhood, but Brooks was called the "Smokehouse of the Confederacy," so they should know by now what they're doing. And judging from the fame of 'Brooks County Ham," they do know.

But with the same vision which has made the section a leader in Georgia agriculture, farmers, county agent and state experiment stations are busy developing new industries—and they have hit upon a product which may, in the not-too-distant future, bring millions of dollars to the country.

Flax, seldom grown anywhere in the United States, is the product and while activities are still in the experimental stage, those who have been working with it are entirely optimistic.

NEW MONEY CROP

Last year the United States imported more than $19,000,000 in flax seed alone, not to mention the fine linens and linen products which came in.

Seeking to stem that tide by developing flax in the south, the TVA has financed experimentation in various parts of the South and, according to County Agent L. E. Cawley, Brooks has shown the best results east of Mississippi.

Taking no chances when the tests began in 1937, Cawley and several co-operating farmers planted 209 varieties of flax and eliminated all but 69 the first winter. The elimination process continues and varieties have been found which will yield as high as 25 bushels of seed and a ton and a half of straw per acre. The average is slightly more than 15 bushels of seed and about a ton of straw.

IT ISN'T HARD

In case you are as unfamiliar with flax as we were, it is the rich color of wheatstraw when harvested, varying in height from two to three-and-a-half feet, with a graceful tuft of seed pods that look something like valley-lily bells.

The tiny seeds are commercially valuable for medicines, for the linseed oil which is mixed in paints, for linseed meal used as feed and for a lot of less familiar things. The fiber, which grows just beneath the outer husk and surrounding a pithy core, is woven into linens, cord, rug bases and such.

Flax, when climate and soil are suitable, is comparatively easy to grow since it requires little cultivation after sowing, and as a spring crop it matures rapidly Planted in March, it is harvested in June. If the land is then fertilized and grown to peas, the soil is improved, despite the fact that any plant which takes away a ton and a half of straw per acre is hard on land.

Experiments looking toward flax as a winter crop in Brooks have proved successful, though the yield of seed and fiber is reduced.

This year, seven acres are being grown for commercial seed with another acre devoted to test varieties. It may not be long before there's a real new source of money from Georgia land in the southern sections.

IN DEFENSE OF LIFE

It is natural to expect a county like Brooks to be active in other ways, and we found the health doctor and the engineer in a state of great excitement over their sanitary privy project.

Boasting an "assembly line" which Engineer Archie Smith says "puts Ford to shame," the project is turning out twelve modern privies per day, aiding the big drive against hookworms, which thrive on unsanitary conditions.

County Health Doctor "Gene" Groover, with whose activities in seeking to spread medical care to the lowest income groups we were already familiar, permitted us to hang on, albeit a little breathlessly, while he drove from town to town co-ordinating the drive against the major plagues which cut so deeply into farm health and thereby into farm income.

It would be a great thing if many Georgians could view first-hand the work these men, and dozens like them, are doing for their state. We believe a lot of them would get a huge dose of enthusiasm—and maybe change some set ideas on which branches of government need the fattest allocations of money.

DRY LAKE DISTRICT

Education, as always, plays its terribly vital role in Brooks County farm life. One significant instance of its effects can be found in the training school, operated by the State Division of Vocational Education. It is run for Negroes and headed at present by Benjamin Anderson, whose enthusiasm for the school's work in training youngsters for jobs on the farm is boundless.

Surrounding the school is a unique Negro settlement known as the Dry Lake district where a group settled half a century ago under a leader who urged them to buy land and stay with it. Many of them have done so and Dry Lake is one of the most modern and prosperous farming districts in the state. Largely because of their real interest in rural living the Brooks Training School was the first such institution established in Georgia and it and the community have developed together.

There is not space for even a cursory view of the activities in that neighborhood but—their canning plant last year put up 15,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables for winter use—their hogs which the students raise on a sanitary basis can be killed and dressed one afternoon, refrigerated in their own cooler overnight and canned in their own plant the following day.

They "live at home" and they live well.

Cartersville, Ga., News
November 23, 1939

Colored Market Group Reports Great Success

Colored Co-operative Marketing Association is making rapid strides toward successful maneuvering. The members are meeting regularly at Euharlee Hill School under the leadership of J. S. Morgan, vocational agricultural teacher.

The organization shipped one truck load of turnips and hogs to Atlanta this week, for which a fair price was received.

Wilson Gleun, who accompanied President Edd Hardy to the market was well pleased with the price he received for his turkeys. He has expressed his determination to grow more and better turkeys for another year.

Since preparation is being made by the group for a greater production of all farm commodities for home and the market.

J. S. Morgan

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

GEORGIA

Macon, Ga. News
October 17, 1939

Live-at-Home Exhibit Made By Negroes of Bibb County



Janie Dinkins, teacher at Unionville, left, inspects an attractive shopping bag woven of native pine straw while Mamie Wesley, right, Bibb county home demonstration agent for Negroes, explained the Live at Home exhibit to her and Mildred Gilbert, center. (Staff photo by Coke.)

That the usually cast-off by-products of the farm can be made into objects as useful and attractive as many of the highly valued cash crops is proved in the 15th annual Live-at-Home exhibit that opened today in the basement of the post office.

The show is sponsored by the Negro Bibb County Farm and Home Demonstration club.

Corn shucks have been fashioned into nicely blocked summer hats and sturdy, practical doormats, by 4-H club girls.

A pleated shirt made of crocus sacking, and a shirt of feed sacking are outstanding exhibits entered by members of the women's home demonstration club.

Best Farm Products

The men have on display their best specimens of corn, pumpkins, peanuts, sugar cane, seven varieties of peas, soy beans, turnips, sweet potatoes, squash and peanuts.

The canning exhibit includes everything from hamburgers to corn on the cob. Soup meat, stew meat, pork backbone, turnip greens, pumpkin, okra, pimientos, wild berries, plums, pears, English peas, whole squash and string beans are among the canned products, that form a background of clear, vivid color for the rest of the show.

Center of the canning exhibit is a homely block of soap made of lye and leftover grease drippings.

On the handcraft table an effective whisk broom of long needle pine straw looks like a product in a mountain summer resort gift shop and pine straw mats, trays and baskets show a taste and artistry that is professional.

Walls Adorned

A bedspread made of flour sacking and embroidered in a square pattern to hide the seams where the sacks are put together adorns one wall of the exhibit room, and cotton print and crochet dresses are on display.

The show is the climax of the year's work in the club, said Mayme Wesley, Bibb county home demonstration agent, who has been showing the Negro farm families how to make the most of everything they have for the last 10 years.

S. H. Lea, Bibb county farm agent, was in charge of the farm produce exhibits.

The show in which 82 club members have entered exhiibts will be open through noon Saturday.

Cartersville, Ga., News
October 12, 1939

Colored Farmers Organize Market, Production Assn.

Colored farmers of Bartow County recently organized a co-operative production and marketing association. The organization is composed for the time being of the Evening Class members of the vocational agricultural department of Summer Hill school with J. S. Morgan as teacher.

An invitation is extended to farmers farm women, farm boys and girls to join this non-profiting organization whose paramount object is to encourage better living conditions on farms The ultimate aim is that each member will produce enough of all farm commodities for home consumption and have surplus to sell throughout the year.

It is the desire of the organization to furnish the home merchants and those of neighboring cities with first class fresh produce right from the farm. After the demands will have been supplied in the community, provisions have been made to handle the surplus on the State market in Atlanta. Already two truck loads of produce have been sold there, bringing a fair income.

Colored farmers desiring to become members may see Edd Hardy, president, or J. S. Morgan, vocational agriculture teacher.

Classes will be conducted throughout the winter months, during which time we hope to learn more about production, grading and marketing farm products.

(Signed) Edd Hardy, president; J. S. Morgan, secretary; Ellis Robinson, treasurer.

Sparta, Ga., Ishmaelite
November 9, 1939

NEGRO FARMER IS WINNER OF PRIZE

Moody Andrews, industrious Negro farmer, was the winner of the prize offered by The Ishmaelite at the Fair held last week at East End School. He had the best crop of any of those competing and will receive a subscription to The Ishmaelite.

Moody was very proud of the prize he won and says he is going to read every issue of the paper.

Macon, Ga Telegraph
August 12, 1939

TEACHING NEGROES BETTER FARMING

Assistant Regional Director J. H. Wood of Montgomery paid Project Manager Amos Ward a visit during the past week to see how the Negro farmers are progressing on the resettlement farms near Montezuma. He was highly pleased.

The average family on the farms had a cash income of $530.26 each. The accumulation for beginning the following year was $318 per family. The homes visited were well-kept, and each had a flower yard.

"In the four states of our region the resettlers had to buy over a million dollars' worth of food because they came to us without anything. They were completely stranded," said Mr. Wood; "but at the end of the first season they had canned enough fruits and vegetables, and saved enough meat, and corn, to carry them through the second winter, with only about half as large cash advances as the average independent farmer has to make to his hands. Each family must have a garden and two or three patches; it must have chickens, hogs, and a cow, and a pasture."

Mr. Ward says that while the project farmers are spending very little for food, they are spending much more for clothes and the luxuries of life than ever before. Nearly all of them have bought radios. The problem is to teach them to plan. The Negro has always depended upon the white man when money ran out. When he gets a supply of cash he is not likely to try to see how long he can make it last him. He will spend it at once, and then depend upon the project managers to provide more for him.

Mr. Ward believes he is going to develop corn production to forty bushels per acre, so that ten acres will produce enough to feed two mules, the hogs, and the family, of the average farmer. He has a ten-acre field now that, according to his estimate, will yield four hundred bushels. It is Whatley's Prolific, planted rather thickly in the drill, and in four-foot rows. It is green and luxuriant, while neighboring corn is withered and drought-stricken. The difference is explained to be in the fertilization. Austrian peas were plowed under for the fine corn, and usual commercial fertilizer was used under the corn that promises not more than ten or fifteen bushels to the acre. Not a blade of the corn fertilized with Austrian peas has withered. Nearly all of the blades of the other corn have been burned in the hot weather.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

IOWA

AAA Director Asks Farmers to Store Corn

Fort Dodge, Ia.—[Special.]—Claude R. Wickard, regional director of the agricultural adjustment administration, today advised farmers to build additional corn storage space to provide for the 1939 crop.

He said the government corn loan program provides a "definite encouragement for farmers to build or purchase additional storage space." In the last year about 9 million bushels of shelled corn were sealed on farms, Wickard said, and it "kept splendidly and proved that properly dried corn can be stored safely for long period."

Get Payment for Storage.

Under the provisions extending the corn loan program, Wickard said, farmers who deliver their corn in settlement of loans at the end of the loan period are eligible for a 6 cent per bushel storage payment. They may obtain this payment in the form of an advance for the purpose of building new cribs and bins, the advance becoming an additional lien against the corn.

"In any event," he said, referring to the possibility that farmers will relinquish title to their sealed corn at the expiration of the loan period, "the Commodity Credit corporation is not going to dump this corn on the market. We made a mistake last year when we sold some bargain corn back to producers in the neighborhood.

Will Keep Corn Off Market.

"Some of us are now paying for our bargains through cheap hogs and other live stock. We are going to keep this sealed corn off the market until it is needed."

Wickard proposed that the corn be kept off the market and the acreage be adjusted in 1940 "so that we won't see any more of that 25 cent corn." He suggested, however, that acreage reduction might not solve the problem of corn surpluses entirely, since several factors in addition to favorable weather have brought about higher corn yields during the past two years.

He mentioned the increasing use of the high yielding hybrid seed, which is as yet an undetermined factor. He said there also has been a considerable increase in the use of commercial fertilizer in some parts of the corn belt.

Cites Improved Methods.

In addition Wickard cited improved methods of cultivation with better machinery, which make it possible to do field work at the right time of the growing season. Poorer land, too, is being retired, leaving the most productive soil for the planting of major crops.

"We can't recognize these facts and escape adjusting our acreage accordingly," he added. "In other words, unless something happens to this corn crop, we must plan on planting fewer acres of corn in 1940."

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

LIVE- AT- HOME- COMPETITION

Find Live-At-Home Pays



Sweepstakes winners in the 1939 Live-At-Home Competition for negro farm families of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi were Edd and Alice Hendrix, Route 3, Box 3, Bolivar, Tenn. In the above photo they are shown receiving The Commercial Appeal Sweepstakes Trophy from Raymond Skinner, chairman of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, which presented the couple $250 in cash. The presentation was made at Manassas High School yesterday.

LIVE-AT-HOME TROPHY GOES TO TENNESSEANS

Commercial Appeal

Edd And Alice Hendrix Are Negro Farm Champions

Memphis, Tenn.

AWARDS MADE AT RALLY

12-8-39

Negro College President Praises The Commercial Appeal's Project, Sees Improvement In Status Of Farmer

By WALTER DURHAM

An aging Tennessee negro farm couple, who have battled their way from sharecropper poverty to the security of land ownership, yesterday were chosen 1939 MidSouth Live-At-Home champions at the annual Live-At-Home Rally and luncheon at Manassas High School attended by 450 county winners, negro agricultural leaders and educators.

They are Edd and Alice Hendrix of Route 3, Bolivar, Tenn., who own a 314-acre debt-free farmstead in Hardeman County. They defeated 13,290 other MidSouth negro farmers to win the coveted honor. They received cash prizes totaling $300 and The Commercial Appeal Live-At-Home trophy, awarded to the family making the best record during the year in living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification and home improvement.

Sweepstakes Prize

The sweepstakes prize of $250 was given by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, while the $50 prize for winning first place in the Tennessee Landowner Division was awarded by The Commercial Appeal. The couple also received a Certificate of Honor for winning first place in Hardeman County.

Raymond Skinner, chairman of the Agricultural Committee, presented the sweepstakes prize and trophy. He also awarded a silver loving cup to Nute and Tommie Smith, Route 2, Marianna, Ark., who were runnerups in the sweepstakes contest.

Gandy Speaks

Before prizes were awarded, the visitors from Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi heard Dr. J. M. Gandy, president of Virginia State College for Negroes, Petersburg, Va., laud The Commercial Appeal for "giving the Southern negro farmer an opportunity and an incentive to improve his economic status."

Insisting that every negro farm family in the three states should participate in the competition, Dr. Gandy said:

"The Live-At-Home program is one that can and will help the poorest sharecropper—it is a movement designed to improve conditions in the lowest cabins. The negro farmer who seeks diligently to follow its principles cannot fail to reap great benefit."

Impressed By Progress

A native of Mississippi, Dr. Dandy said he was "greatly impressed with the progress negro farmers of the MidSouth are making."

"Sharecroppers are becoming tenants, tenants are becoming farm operators, and farm operators are becoming landowners," he said. "This is a healthy sign, and it is raising the agricultural and educational standards of the South. It is also causing more and more people to become land conscious—to realize the value of crop diversification and soil conservation."

Declaring the negro farmer would not be economically free until he produced most of his needs at home, Dr. Gandy urged that more attention be paid to food and feed crops, and less attention devoted to cotton and other cash crops.

Self Sufficiency Needed

"A cash income means little when the money received must be paid to the butcher, baker and banker as soon as it is received," he said. "The more self-sufficient a farm becomes, the more prosperous the farmer grows."

The rally was opened with the invocation by Rev. N. T. Walker, Methodist, Memphis District, presiding elder. The address of welcome was made by Lewis O. Swingler, editor of the Memphis World, negro weekly, who also praised The Commercial Appeal and the Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the competition.

State and district extension agents, who have co-operated in sponsoring the contest, were introduced by R. H. Brown, Shelby County negro extension agent, and E. R. Shockley of Hardeman County, introduced Dr. Gandy.

Luncheon Held

Following the morning program visitors were entertained with a luncheon in the Manassas High dining room. Although reservations had been made for 250 guests, a total of 450 attended.

At the afternoon session, county Certificates of Honor were presented to 98 county winners of the three states by state negro extension agents, following which Walter Durham of The Commercial Appeal awarded $600 in cash to state landowner and tenant winners of the three states.

Mr. Durham also presented Shockley and Emma Persons of Hardeman County with The Commercial Appeal's Extension Arophy for producing the sweepstakes champion, and Brown The Commercial Appeal's Enrolment Trophy for obtaining the largest number of contestants in one county.

Special Prize

A special prize of $25 to Shelby County winners, given by students of Manassas High, will be used to purchase pure bred pigs, Brown.

The program closed with the benediction by Rev. T. O. Fuller, Baptist preacher. Music was furnished by the Geeter School Quartet and the Manassas Drum and Bugle Corps.

Hendrix won the sweepstakes championship, contest judges said, because of his outstanding record in general farming, with special emphasis on food and feed production. They pointed out that the family has shown the four-point program of the Live-At-Home Competition is a safe way to win security and peace of mind that comes with farm ownership.

Speaking of the Live-At-Home Competition, Edd said:

"The contest has caused us to keep a detailed record to see if we are gaining or losing on our farm operations. We have more food and feed than ever before, and we have a bank account.

"We have stored 1018 cans of 37 varieties of fruits and vegetables 50 pounds of dried vegetables and 40 pounds of dried fruit. We have a 140-pound beef to can, five hogs to kill weighing 1000 pounds, 100 gallons of sorghum, 60 hens, 10 geese, five turkeys, four cows, five yearlings, three brood sows and 10 pigs. We have saved 300 bushels ofcorn, 16 tons of lespedeza hay, five tons of pea hay, two tons of soy bean hay and 1500 bundles of fodder. We are well fixed for the Winter by following the live-at-home plan."

Started As Renters

Edd and Alice were married in 1905 and started out as renters in 1906. They followed this method for 11 years and were just where they started when they decided to buy their own farm in 1916. The original tract consisted of 150 acres and was paid for in three years. In 1926 the couple bought another 164-acre farm, which they finished paying for last year.

Only 75 acres of the farm are in cultivation, but this year the couple had a gross income of $2922.85, of which $2363.99 was net. The family of six spent $588.86 during the year, of which only $42 was for food. Clothing and other household expenses amounted to $145, wit hfarm investments totaling $291.50. Farm expenses, including hired labor, were $121.96.

During the year the family consumed $489.60 worth of home produced food and now has a food inventory of $856.30. A Fall and Winter garden now is providing the family with seven varieties of fresh vegetables.

Largest item of income on the Hendrix farm was derived from cotton, which accounted for $405. Timber products brought in $133.25 and livestock sales produced $384.

Value of livestock on the farm increased $421 during the year, from $818.60 in 1938 to $1239.50 this year. The feed and seed inventory also showed an increase over last year, from $190.50 to $458 this year. The farm home inventory was up $228.75 and the machinery and equipment inventory now is $273 compared with $150 last year.

Rotated His Crops

A rotated system of crops, not previously followed, was started by Edd this year. His pasture program consists of permanent pasture on high rolling land, with lespedeza and hop clover on a Bermuda base. The top is sown in August or September with rye grass for Winter and early Spring grazing, and is supplemented with crimson clover on land to be followed with corn.

In conserving his soil, Edd this year used 300 pounds of triple super phosphate, and planted soy beans in all corn, plowing under the vines. He built 6000 feet of new terraces, sowed four acres to rye for a Winter cover crop, and set out 2000 pintes and 6000 locust trees.

Edd and Alice, 56 and 51, respectively, have no children of their own but have adopted 10 orphans, three of whom are still in grade school. Three of their adopted children were given college educations. Alice is a member of the Home Demonstration Club, and the three belong to 4-H Clubs and to the Future Farmers of America. Besides Hendrix and Nut Smith, who won second place, others receiving praise for their records were Dock Netterville, Route 1, Wilson, Ark.; Henry Ivie, Route 2, Trenton, Tenn.; Sam Cook, Route 4, Magnolia, Miss., and T. K. Welbourn Route 2, Charleston, Miss.

FAMILY TAKES $300 AWARD IN FARM CONTESTS

Share-Cropper And Wife Crowned 1939 Champs At Memphis Fete

By JAMES H. PURDY, JR.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 15—An aging Tennessee farm couple who have battled their way slowly from sharecropper poverty to the security of land ownership were chosen as the 1939 mid south live-at-home champions at the annual live-at-home rally luncheon held at Manassas high school here, Thursday.

The couple are Edd and Alice Hendrix, of Route 3, Bolivar, Tenn., who own a 314-acre debt-free farmstead in Hardeman county. They received cash prizes totaling $300 and the live-at-home trophy, awarded to the family making the best record during the year in living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification and home improvement. They defeated 13,290 other mid-south Race farmers to win the coveted honor.

A sweepstakes prize of $250 was given by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, while the $50 prize for winning first place in the Tennessee Landowner division was awarded by a local newspaper sponsor of the contest.

Raymond Skinner (white) chairman of the agricultural committee, awarded a silver loving cup to Nute and Tommie Smith, Route 2, Mariana, Ark., who were runners-up in the sweepstakes contest.

Before presentation of the prizes Dr. J. M. Gandy, president of Virginia State college for Negroes, in Petersburg, Va., lauded the sponsor for giving the Southern Race farmer an opportunity and an incentive to improve his economic status. Dr. Gandy urged that more attention be paid to food and feed crops, and less attention devoted to cotton and oher cash crops.

Visitors were entertained with a luncheon in the Manassas high school dining room. A total of 450 attended this luncheon although reservations had been made for only 250 guests.

At the afternoon session, county certificates of honor were presented to 98 county winners of the three states by state extension agents, following which Walter Durham, (white) of the sponsoring paper, awarded $600 in cash to state landowners and tenant winners of the three states.

Mr. Durham also presented Shockley and Emma Persons of Hardeman county with extension trophy for producing the sweepstakes champion, and the Brown enrollment trophy for obtaining the largest number of contestants in one county.

Hendrix said: "The contest has caused us to keep a detailed record to see if we are gaining or losing on our farm operations. We have stored 1018 cans of 38 varieties of fruits and vegetables. 50 pounds of dried vegetables and 40 pounds of dried fruit. We have saved 300 bushels of corn, 16 tons of lespedeza hay, five tons of pea hay, two tons of soy bean hay, and 1500 bundles of fodder. We are well fixed for the winter by following the live-at-home plan."

Although Mr. and Mrs. Hendrix ages 56 and 51 respectively, have no children of their own, they have adopted 10 orphans and given them educations, three of whom have received college educations.

Others receiving praise in this rally were Dock Netterville, Route 1, Wilson, Ark.; Henry Ivie, Route 2, Trenton; Sam Cook, Route 4 Magnolia; Miss and T. K. Welbourn, Route 2. Charleston. Miss.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

LIVE-AT-HOME-COMPETITION

Memphis Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
February 5, 1939

Awards Doubled This Year In Live-At-Home Contest For Negroes of MidSouth

Competition Enlarged and Improved So As To Be Of More Assistance to Farmers—Tenants and Landowners Compete Separately

Negro farm families in the MidSouth, who increased their incomes last year by growing their food and feed, are given an opportunity today to win cash awards for their work in farming in the 1939 Live-At-Home Competition.

Sponsored by The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, with co-operation of the Extension Services of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee, the Live-At-Home Competition has been enlarged and improved to be of more assistance to the farmers.

Entering the second year, the Live-At-Home Competition has been divided into two divisons to provide greater opportunities for the various types of farmers. There will be a division for the tenants and another for the landowners.

The awards in each state have been doubled this year. Each first place winner in each of the three states in each of the two divisions will receive an award of $50; second place $25; third, $15 and fourth, $10.

The champion farm family in the MidSouth will be awarded a $250 cash award by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce and the Live-At-Home trophy by The Commercial Appeal.

The farm family winning first place in each qualified county will be awarded a certificate of honor and will be invited to attend the second annual Live-At-Home Luncheon to be held in Memphis in December.

The enrollment drive in the Live-At-Home Competition begins today with a trophy to be awarded to the county extension workers who enroll the largest number of families in the competition. Five families must be entered in each division to qualify a county in the competition.

Extension awards will be presented to the county and home agents producing the champion Live-At-Home family.

Negro farm families interested in participating in the competition may secure their enrolment blanks and record books from their county or home agents, and the Farm Security supervisors. Enrolment blanks also will be printed in The Commercial Appeal from time to time.

The enrolment drive will close April 5

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
February 13, 1939

NEGRO FARM FAMILIES START HOME CONTEST

Increased Profits Found In MidSouth Program

$850 WILL BE AWARDED

Special Prizes Being Offered This Year For Shelby County Winners; Enrolment Drive Under Way

Nine hundred and two negro farm families in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee have begun Competition for cash awards totaling $850, a tabulation of entries showed yesterday.

Seeking the enrolment trophy, Mississippi negro extension agents last week, the first week of the second annual enrolment campaign, entered 401 families in the competition, which has brought increased profits and more security to farm families in the MidSouth.

Arkansas, with 289 entries, is second, and Tennessee is third, with 249 farm families enrolled. R. H. Brown, Shelby County negro agent, who was nosed out of the enrolment trophy last year, took the lead for the trophy last week, with 54 entered and 200 more signed up.

Agent Plans Tour

Following the same program he had last year, Agent Brown has completed plans for a Live-At-Home of the county. He will hold meetings at each community during the next three weeks and urge the farmers to enroll in the competition.

Shelby County farmers will be offered additional awards this year by the faculty and students of Manassas Negro High School. Prof. A. Hayes, principal, said his organization will give a purebred Jersey heifer; a purebred Poland China gilt; a pen of chickens and several other prizes.

Tied For Second

Two counties have tied for second place in the enrolment campaign, with 50 entries each. They are Crittenden County, Ark., and Leflore County, Miss.; third place is held by Coahoma County, Miss. with 48; Haywood County, Tenn. fourth, with 43; Hardeman County Tenn., fifth, with 39; Attala County, Miss., sixth, with 36, and Mississippi County, Ark., seventh, with 31.

The enrolment drive will close April 5. Farm families may obtain their enrolment blanks from their county agent, Farm Security supervisor, or from The Commercial Appeal.

Memphis, Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
February 28, 1939

NEGRO FARMERS JOIN LIVE-AT-HOME PLAN

Total Of 1288 Registered In Competition

Extension agents in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee have enrolled 1288 negro farm families in the $850 Live-At-Home Competition, records revealed last night.

Mississippi leads Arkansas by a count of 463 to 462 with Tennessee trailing 100 entries behind the leaders. During the same period of 1938 there were 526 families entered in the competition.

Crittenden County, Ark., agents took the No. 1 position for the second annual Live-At-Home Enrolment Trophy, which is awarded the extension agents enrolling the largest number of families in the contest.

Last night's tabulations showed that 113 families have enrolled from Crittenden County, Ark., with second place going to Shelby County, where 57 have begun their live-at-home program.

Leaders in the states are:

Arkansas—Crittenden, Mississippi and St. Francis.

Mississippi — Attala, Coahoma, Holmes and Leflore.

Tennessee—Shelby, Haywood and Hardeman.

Qualified for the state awards are:

Arkansas — Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Cleveland, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Faulkner, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Lincoln, Miller, Mississippi, Monroe, Ouachita, Poinsett, Pope, Prairie, Stone, St. Francis and Woodruff.

Mississippi—Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Jeff Davis, Lafayette, Leflore, Madison, Marshall, Panola, Quitman, Scott, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Washington, Winston and Yazoo.

Tennessee — Crockett, Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, Madison, Shelby, Tipton and Montgomery.

The enrolment drive will close April 5.

Yazoo, Miss. Sentinel
March 8, 1939

322 Families In Negro Contest

Live-At-Home Contest Attracts Negro Farmers—Many Awards Given

Three hundred and twenty-two Negro farm families have entered a Live-At-Home Contest sponsored in the county this year, according to a statement issued by D. W. Lindsey, Negro County Agent

A total of $75.00 will be awarded families making the best showing. County winners will be chosen on their work in the following: A live-at-home program, diversification, soil conservation, and home management and improvement.

The judging will be based on the following:

Sixty per cent for living-at-home

Ffteen per cent for diversification

Fifteen per cent for soil conservation

Ten per cent for home improvement

By joining in the County Contest contestants automatically become affiliated with the Commercial Appeal's 1939 Live-At-Home Competition for Negro farm families in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Awards for the Tri-State Competition will total $350.00.

Other information regarding both the County and the Tri-State Competition will be seen in this paper from time to time.

Memphis, Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
April 1, 1939

DEADLINE IS TONIGHT IN PLANT TO PROSPER

Enrolment Period Will Close At Midnight

30,000 ENTRIES EXPECTED

Competition Bureau Looks For Last-Minute Rush From Mid-South Farmers — Live-At-Home Drive Closes April 5

By WALTER DURHAM

The enrolment drive in the Plant To Prosper Competition, sponsored by The Commercial Appeal, ends at midnight tonight.

Enrolments in the Live-At-Home Contest for negro farmers will be received until midnight April 5.

Hundreds Rush Entries

As the daedline neared yesterday, hundreds of farm families in the MidSouth rushed their entry forms to the Plant To Prosper Bureau to be eligible for the $2900 in cash prizes offered to facilitate families who do the best job of living at home, conserving their soil, diversifying their crops and improving their home surroundings.

Approximately 2000 entries were received yesterday, many from counties which had not previously qualified.

"Last minute" enrolments, piling up in offices of extension workers

and Farm Security Administration superintendents, are expected to send the total to a new all-time high of 30,000.

Tabluations last night showed 20,201 farm families already have entered the contest.

Seven More Counties

Seven additional counties qualified for the awards yesterday—three in Arkansas and four in Mississippi. They were Boone, Chicot and Miller Counties, Ark., and Alcorn, Hinds, Panola and Simpson, Miss.

Mississippi County, Ark., with a total of 710 enrolments, continued to hold the lead for the Plant To Prosper trophy awarded to the county which has the largest percentage of its farm families participating in the contest. In second place is Marion County, Ark., with 450 entries.

Polk and Lafayette Counties, in Arkansas, entered the picture yesterday, when extension workers sent in 162 entries from Lafayette and 105 from Polk. A number of other Arkansas extension workers also sent in entries.

West Tennessee Covered

Most counties in West Tennessee already are qualified, while a few lack only one or two entries of being eligible for the awards. In Southeast Missouri, all but four counties are expected to fill their quotas by midnight.

Although lagging behind last year's figures, Mississippi will "go over the top" today, agricultural leaders insisted last night. Mississippi now has all but 19 counties qualified and entries today are expected to reduce that number.

Farmers in the four states who have not yet qualified may do so by sending their names and addresses to The Commercial Appeal. They also should state how many acres they are farming and the number of persons in their families.

Memphis, Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
April 9, 1939

13,259 FAMILIES SEEK LIVE-AT-HOME PRIZES

Tennessee Leads Way In Negro Farmers Enrolled

14,827 IN PLANT, PROSPER

Total MidSouth Groups In Contest Represent 141,106 Farm People Tilling 2,176,656 Acres —Shelby Wins Trophy

By WALTER DURHAM

With Tennessee leading the way, 13,259 negro farm families in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee, farming 710,462 acres, and representing 66,189 farm people, have enrolled in the 1939 Live-At-Home Competition, sponsored by The Commercial Appeal and the Agricultural Committee of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

These figures do not include 326 negro farm families in Missouri who sent in entries in the contest, but who are not eligible for $850 in cash prizes offered families who do the best job this year of living at home, conserving their soil, diversifying their crops and improving their home surroundings. Missouri entries farm 20,212 acres and include 2445 farm people, making the total Live-At-Home enrolment 13,585—over 3000 more than entered in 1938.

14,827 In Plant, Prosper

Coupled with the 14,827 farmers who are participating in the Plant To Prosper Competition, a total of 28,412 MidSouth farm families are engaging in the contest. They farm 2,176,656 acres and represent 141,106 farm people.

To Shelby County, Tenn., with 1605 entries—362 landowners and 1243 tenants—goes the honor of winning the 1939 Live-at-Home enrolment trophy, awarded annually to the county which has the largest number of its negro families participating in the competition.

The award was won last year by Haywood County, Tennessee, which had 1227 participants. This year Haywood broke last year's record, with 1566 entries, to win second place. R. H. Brown is negro county agent for Shelby County, and F. E. Jeffries is negro agent for Haywood. Shelby, with 1083 entries, was runner-up in 1938.

The trophy will be presented to Shelby extension workers at the annual Live-At-Home dinner to be held in Memphis this Fall.

Although entries postmarked after last Wednesday midnight were not counted in the contest for the enrolment trophy, farmers of both white and negro divisions may qualify for the prizes if their entries are received during the month of April.

Haywood participants in the competition this year farm 73,919 acres and have 8325 family members.

In Arkansas, Crittenden County set the pace with 1202 entries. These enrolments represent 251 landowners and 951 tenants. They farm 40,873 acres and include 6847 family members.

807 In Holmes County

High county in Mississippi was Holmes, with 807 entered—193 landowners and 614 tenants. These families plant a total of 56,311 acres and have 4365 members.

Other counties which entered a large number of participants include Mississippi, Ark., 479; Monroe, Ark., 369; Phillips, Ark., 264; Lafayette, Ark., 165; Lafayette, Miss., 442; Yazoo, Miss., 338; Coahoma, Miss., 159; Sunflower, Miss., 157; Fayette, Tenn., 592; Tipton, Tenn., 450; Hardeman, Tenn., 339; Giles, Tenn., 290.

Tennessee also led in the number of acres devoted to the Live-At-Home program, but Arkansas led in the number of persons participating. Tennessee was second in the number of persons, and Mississippi was second in the number of acres.

Tennessee has 260,864 acres in the program, and 24,416 people; Arkansas, 217,084 acres and 24,840 persons, and Mississippi, 219,255 acres and 16,933 people.

110 Counties Qualify

One hundred and ten counties in the three states qualified for the competition by having at least five families entered in one of the two divisions, while about 50 counties lack one or two entries of being qualified. Most of these counties are expected to be eligible before the deadline for individual farmers expires.

Mississippi, with 55, led in the number of qualified counties. Arkansas was second with 40, while Tennessee had only 15. Eight counties qualified in Missouri, but participants there will not share in the awards.

Each qualified county will select its winning farm family in the two divisions this Fall. The winners will be awarded a certificate of merit and will be given an invitation to the Live-At-Home dinner. County winners will compete for the state prizes of $50, $25, $15 and $10, to be awarded winning landowners and tenants of each of the three states. A sweepstakes award of $250 will be awarded to the family, either landowner or tenant, who makes the best record during the year.

The judging will be based 60 per cent for living at home; 15 per cent for diversification; 15 per cent for soil conservation and 10 per cent for home improvement.

Dyersburg, Tenn. Gazette
April 11, 1939

NEGRO FAMILIES IN LIVE-AT-HOME

Fifty-One Join Junior Chamber Of Commerce Sponsored Program Here

In the 1939 Live-at-Home competition for negro farmers, fifty-one families have enrolled. They farm 1,765 acres and represent 271 farm people.

The Dyer county division is sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and supervised by W. L. Threlkeld, teacher of agriculture at Bruce high school.

Besides the names already listed the following also have enrolled: Grant Smith, Henry Haskins, Tom Comington, Tom Walker, Emit Robinson, Robert Kelley, Arthur Kelly, H. W. Watkins, Lex Price, Willie McBride, Ross Upshaw, Jeff Ganaway, Albert Williams, Annie McCorkle, Pairlee Swift, Louis Barnett, James Johnson, Nelson Mitchell, L. V. Smith, Willie King, Howard Goings, Billie Goings, Lesie Mems, Fan Light, Richard Holder, B. J. Kirk, Jack Kirk, Tomie Statom, Willie Douglass, Webb Sharp, Murry G. Smith, Hosie Douglass, Ben Sharp and Ike Carter.

Negro Live-At-Home Winners Reap Big Rewards Tomorrow

With 250 county Live-At-Home Competition winners, extension agents, negro agricultural leaders and educators expected, the second annual one-day Live-At-Home Rally and luncheon, given by The Commercial Appeal, will open at Manassas High School at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Lewis O. Swingler, editor of The Memphis World negro weekly, will preside.

Principal speaker will be Dr. J. M. Gandy, president of Petersburg Land Grant College, Petersburg, Va., who was invited at the request of a number of Southern negro extension workers. Dr. Gandy will speak on "The Negro's Place in American Agriculture."

Highlight of the program will come tomorrow afternoon when the $250 sweepstakes prize is awarded to the MidSouth negro farmer who has made the best record this year in diversifying his crops, conserving his soil, living at home and improving his home surroundings. Winner of this prize also will receive a handsome silver trophy.

Also to be awarded are state prizes totaling $600, with $200 going to the first four place winners in the Landowner and Tenant Divisions of the Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi competitions.

First place winners in each division in each state will receive $50 each, second place $25 each, third place $15 each and fourth place $10 each. A second place trophy will be presented the runnerup for the sweepstakes award.

Six contestants, a landowner and a tenant from each state, are eligible for the capital prize, awarded by the Agricultural Committee of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce. State prizes are paid by The Commercial Appeal.

Seeking sweepstakes honors are Dock Netterville, tenant, Route 1 Wilson, Ark.; Nute Smith, landowner, Route 2, Marianna, Ark.; Edd Hendrix, landowner, Route 2 Bolivar, Tenn.; Henry Ivie, tenant Route 2, Trenton, Tenn.; Sam Cook, landowner, Route 4, Magnolia, Miss., and T. K. Welbourn, tenant, Route 2, Charleston, Miss.

Other Trophies

Trophies also will be awarded to the negro extension workers who enrolled the most contestants, and to the extension workers who cooperated with the sweepstake winner in his 1939 farm program.

The rally will open with the invocation by Rev. N. T. Walker, following which Swingler will deliver the address of welcome. R. H. Brown, Shelby County negro extension agent, and E. R. Shockley, Hardeman County negro agent, will introduce guests. The luncheon will follow Dr. Gandy's speech.

In the afternoon, Certificates of Honor will be presented to all county winners in the contest, after which Walter Durham, director of the Plant To Prosper and Live-At-Home Bureaus, will present state awards. The sweepstakes prize will be presented by Raymond Skinner, chairman of Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee.

Two films will be shown during the program, one a section of a recent Pathe News reel, showing activities on the farm of H. L. Majure of Poplar Grove, Ark., 1938 Plant To Prosper sweepstakes champion, and a Tennessee Valley Authority picture, "Rivers," exhibited by G. C. Wright. The benediction will be said by Rev. T. O. Fuller. Music will be furnished by the Geeter School Quartet and Manassas Drum and Bugle Corps.

Mississippi Makes Progress In Effective Farm Planning Through Committee Studies

8-21-39 Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal

Work Of Solving Major Agricultural Problems Has Been Carried Out In Nine Selected Counties And Preparatory Steps Taken In 73 Others

Special to The Commercial Appeal

STATE COLLEGE, Miss., Aug. 20.—Because Community and County Committees of farmers are making an intensive study of farm problems and are combining their experience with that of technically trained agricultural workers, Mississippi is making substantial progress in more effective farm planning, J. V. Pace, chief extension agronomist, said today.

First started in 1935 with the organization of County Land Use Planning Committees, the work of solving major farm problems was reorganized in 1938 on a broader and more intensive basis, Mr. Pace explained. County Policy and Planning Committees, composed of leading farmers, farm women and representatives of various agricultural agencies and organizations have been set up and now are at work in each county.

This year's land use planning has been carried out in nine selected counties and preparatory work has been done in the other 73 counties of the state. In 1940, intensive work will be done in 12 additional counties and a unified farm program backed by all agricultural agencies will be carried out in Covington County.

Four Major Objectives

The Land Use Planning Committee, Mr. Pace said, are striving for four major objectives—the best long-term use of land; conservation of the soil, timber, wildlife, water and human resources; an adequate permanent farm income and a happy satisfied farm life.

"Important adjustments in land use must be made to bring about a better balanced agriculture in Mississippi and more specific information concerning desirable adjustments in local areas within the counties is needed in order that the program of the various public agencies may be harmonized and more effectively applied toward accomplishment of these adjustments," Mr. Pace declared.

"The judgment of farmers themselves in interpreting the needs of their communities and participation by farmers in land use planning are essential to the formulation of sound, longtime agricultural planning.

Obtain Farmer Judgment

"To assure that the most desirable and practical farm programs are developed, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Association of Land Grant College Officials have determined that farmer participation in the discussion of their problems, both from the individual and community point of view is fundamental," he said.

"These state, county and community Planning Committees provide the means of obtaining farmer judgment concerning local needs and of making this information available to those responsible for the various public programs. It is desired that the communities make a thorough study of local agricultural conditions, formulate comprehensive long-time agricultural policies by counties and serve as advisory bodies to facilitate the carrying out of the program in each county in a manner consistent with the policy established for the county."

Mr. Pace said the work of the committees in the preparatory counties consists largely in naming and discussing major problems affecting farm people, developing and studying background information and economic data bearing on these problems, and studying the different action programs in the county.

Done On Community Basis

"In the intensive counties," he explained, "the work is done on a community basis by community committees of farmers and farm women. Community land use maps are made showing local land use areas based on soil type and topography, present land use and special problems. Each local land use area is described in detail, given a land use classification and detailed recommendations made as to the best longtime use of the land in the area.

"The description, classification, and land use recommendations of the different local areas are embodied in a community report, including the community map showing the local areas.

"The community reports and maps are then combined into a county report and map by the County Subcommittee on Land Use and the County Policy and Planning Committee. The reports are finally approved by a State Land Use Committee and submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture to be used as a basis for future agricultural programs, revising and adjusting present programs, and final adoption of a national agricultural land use policy," he said.

Crop Conditions In State Prove Irregular

Crop conditions in Tennessee Aug. 1 were very irregular over the state, the Agricultural Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture reported yesterday.

In West Tennessee conditions were generally favorable during July, and crop prospects improved but they were still low as a result of adverse weather conditions that prevailed earlier in the season, the report said.

In some parts of the state, rainfall has been spotted and some areas have suffered from drouth, the report stated. Other sections have had too much rain.

Corn suffered from drouth during July and the yield is now indicated at only 19.5 bushels per acre, which compares with 25.5 bushels produced in 1938, and the 10-year average (1928-37) of 20.9 bushels.

The indicated hay crop, the report said, is 1,672,000 tons, compared with the record crop of 1,850,000 tons in 1938. Estimated yield of one ton per acre compares with the unusually good yield of 1.11 tons obtained last year.

Tennesese Irish potatoes are yielding slightly better than indicated a month ago. The present estimate of 73 bushels per acre compares with 80 bushels produced in 1938, but is above the previous 10-year average of 69 bushels per acre. Sweet potatoes are forecast at 95 bushels per acre, compared with 103 bushels produced in 1938, and the previous 10-year average of 90 bushels per acre.

The peach crop of 1,705,000 bushels, compared with the near failure of the crop in 1938, when only 610,000 bushels were harvested. The pear, grape and apple crops also are above last year.

Good Corn In South? Sure, He Says

"Farmers who say we can't grow good corn in the South don't know what they are talking about."

The speaker, L. C. Holloman, president of L. C. Holloman & Son, cotton seed and implement dealers, sat in his office at 14 North Front yesterday and challenged dubious planters to look at one-acre patch of corn he has growing on his farm on Park before insisting the South cannot produce good corn.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal

"On land that is as poor as any in Shelby County, this corn will yield at least 100 bushels to the acre," he said. "The only fertilizer used on the tract was 200 pounds of nitrate of soda. 100 pounds four weeks after planting and another 100 pounds two weeks later."

Seed for the patch were from stalk selections of the Thompson variety. Each stalk has from three to five ears, the highest of which averages about four feet from the ground.

"Any farmer can produce good corn if he uses care in selecting his seed and cultivating his crop," Mr. Holloman declared. "Some farmers work their crop too much, while others do not cultivate sufficiently. After my crop is planted, I do all my cultivating with a special harrow I invented."

Cheatham Appointed To Laboratory Post

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Robert J. Cheatham, now in charge of the Cotton Utilization Research Division of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has been appointed head of the Cotton Processing Division of the Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans, Dr. Henry G. Knight, bureau chief, announced today.

Mr. Cheatham will direct investigations involving the processing and utilization of cotton lint, including work on developing new and improved manufacturing processes, yarns, fabrics and other products composed wholly or in part of cotton.

A graduate of Clemson Agricultural and Mechanical College, Clemson, S. C., Mr. Cheatham had cotton mill experience and wide experience in teaching textile technology before joining the Department of Agriculture in 1927. One of the first and best-known products developed by Mr. Cheatham was a duplex cotton bag for the consumer packaging of fruits and vegetables. He is the author of numerous articles and publications on utilization of cotton.

Plant To Prosper Makes New Friends For Him

BOLIVAR, Tenn., Aug. 20.—Participation in the Plant To Prosper Competition, sponsored by The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, has not only put money in the bank for Alvin Wheeler, Hardeman County 1938 tenant winner, but has caused him to make new friends and new connections.

Elated over the progress made in diversified farming in the Mid-South under the Plant To Prosper program, John R. Gray of Corinth, Miss., wrote Mr. Wheeler that he was interested in the movement and would like to come to Bolivar and look over his farm.

Accompanied by J. A. Pickens and Mr. Pickens' son, Mr. Gray came to Bolivar recently and spent the day at the Wheeler home studying his farm methods. Before leaving, Mr. Gray said he would seek to have all his friends in Alcorn County enroll in the Plant To Prosper Contest next year.

Dairy Methods Studied By Touring Group

To keep informed on the latest and best methods in milk production, 40 members of the Forest Hill Milk Producers Association have just completed a 1400-mile, six-day tour of dairy farms and experiment stations in Tennessee, South Corolina and Georgia.

The gorup traveled by bus, and in addition to studying modern dairy methods, visited Norris Dam and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Last year members of the association made a similar tour to Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin, which resulted in adoption of many improved practices on dairy farms in the Memphis area.

This year's tour was planned and conducted by C. A. Hutton, University of Tennessee extension dairyman.

Arkansas Hens Increase Egg Production

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Aug. 20.—Arkansas hens laid more eggs in 1938 than they did in 1937, according to figures compiled by S. A. Moore, extension poultryman for the University of Arkansas.

In 1937 the average hen in the state produced 73 eggs, while in 1938 her production rose to 83 eggs, Mr. Moore said.

"This increase in production more than offset the disadvantage of lower egg prices that prevailed in 1939," Mr. Moore explained. "In 1937 the average Arkansas hen produced $1.12 worth of eggs at 18½ cents a dozen, and in 1938, with eggs bringing two cents a dozen less, the average hen produced $1.14 worth of eggs."

Continued improvement in the rate of production will enable poultrymen to maintain their margin of profit in spite of low egg prices, Moore asserted.

8-27-39 Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal

Lincoln 4-H Club Team To Attend Dairy Show

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 20.—A Lincoln County 4-H Club dairy demonstration team, composed of state leader of boys' club work, and County Agent W. H. Rochester coached the team with the assistance of L. O. Colebank, assistant dairyman, in a na- ing specialist.

Raymond Simmons and Bert Gray, L. S. Edwards, d with the San Francisco tionwide contest at the National Dairy Show to be held in connection with the World's Fair in October.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

MISSISSIPPI

WOMAN OPERATES TRUCK, DAIRY FARM

Mrs. Anna Dillon Demonstrates that Being Feminine Is No Handicap to a Successful Career on the Farm.

Anna 1-7-39

CHATAWA, Miss., Jan. 5 — (ANP) — Demonstrating that femininity is no handicap to a successful career on a farm, Mrs. Anna Dillon operates here a paying truck and dairy farm. Although she is married, Mrs. Dillon who appears to be about 45 years old, manages every detail of the business.

Peas, beans, corn, vetch and clover are the principal items grown on the farm. She specializes in Black Valentine beans, planting two acres each season. Pike county is a truck section. She packs and ships herself to the nearest market which quotes the best prices.

FARM SPECIALIZES IN DAIRY PRODUCTS

Mrs. Dillon's dairy herd consists of 26 jerseys. In her immaculate milking shed are installed self milkers which operate by air pressure. Bottels are washed automatically by motor and inspections by the State department of health are frequent. Her daily production is 50 gallons. She ships to a creamery at Cleveland and in addition sells all the butter and dairy products she can manufacture to a Catholic girl's seminary located here. Her sales from milk and dairy products net her $100 to $150 per month.

"My 60 chickens average about 30 eggs a day," said Mrs. Dillon. "Eggs and chickens are in demand here and I seldom have enough. I live pretty much at home. This year I raised four excellent hogs. I can meat and chickens also as well as vegetables, salads and fruits, using the pressure cooker. This year I have 175 cans of beef meat, pork and chicken. The broilers are thus taken off the yard and I keep chiefly the laying hens. I fry the chicken before canning it. If you have never eaten canned chicken you don't know what's good."

HAS A HOBBY!—IT'S ANTIQUE FURNITURE

Mrs. Dillon was a teacher when she married some 20 years ago. Her husband, Austin Dillon, who has been employed all of his life at the white Catholic seminary objected to her continuance in the school room, so she plunged into farming, partly as an avocation.

One of the most interesting phases of Mrs. Dillon's home is her collection of antiques. She has four canopied four-poster beds, relics of early ante-bellum days, numerous marble topped and carved tables and similar early furniture, much of it bought when plantation owners were selling out or modernizing. Her eventual plan is to sell it. In the meantime she says she is enjoying it herself.

Hernando, Miss. Promoter
April 27, 1939

NEGRO FARMERS URGED TO ATTEND MEETING

Negro farmers are asked to attend the DeSoto County Farm Bureau meeting Monday, May 1st, at 2 p. m. at the court house.

Mr. H. C. McNamara, superintendent of the delta experiment station and Mr. E. B. Farris, superintendent of Holly Springs experiment station will discuss feed production for the hill and delta farmers.

Many farmers of the county failed to produce enough corn, peas and sagrain to supply the needs of livestock on the farm. To live-at-home a farmer should not have to buy any feed that can be grown on the farm. With the AAA program farmers will have plenty of land and labor to grow the needed food and feed.

Negro families seem to be interested in the garden contest sponsored in DeSoto county. There is a great opportunity for the negro families to live-at-home by entering the plant to prosper contest and year-round garden contest.

Tenants of Delta Growing Gardens as Food Crop

6-4-39

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Clarksdale, Miss., June 3.—The Mississippi Delta, for a half-century or more exclusively devoted to the production of cotton on a large scale and depending on other areas for food and feed supplies, is going into diversification in a big way, according to reports received from a number of county agents.

A garden questionnaire submitted by 708 planters in Washington county showed that out of 3805 tenant families 3469 had home gardens, according to J. W. Whitaker of Greenville, county agent. Only one tenant in Humphreys county has no garden, O. C. Shipp of Belzoni, county agent, reported.

Vast progress in diversification, especially in producing gardens on a large scale, is reported by T. Y. Williford of Cleveland, Bolivar county agent; J. S. McBee of Greenwood, Leflore county agent; T. M. Williams of Lexington, Holmes county agent; Charlie Cary of Rolling Fork, Sharkey county agent; D. D. Gibson of Tunica, Tunica county agent, and J. A. Carpenter of Indianola, Sunflower county agent. More than 100,000 tenant families in the Delta are co-operating nearly 100 per cent in the home garden program, according to county agents.

A New Cotton Chopper



H. S. Dale of Jackson, Miss., is shown above with his new cotton chopper which he will put on the market soon.

Novel Chopper And Cultivator Will Speed Up Cotton Farming

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 2.—A Mississippi man's invention has forged another link in the complete mechanization of cotton farming.

H. S. Dale, Jackson cotton buyer and experienced farmer, revealed today that he not only has invented a new cotton chopper and cultivator, but he's already completing plans to place his invention on the market.

"I'm not going to try to 'get rich quick' on the chopper," Mr. Dale, a tall, modest man of about 60, declared. "My son, Hal, and I have already had orders from many Delta farmers who have seen it demonstrated. Just filling their orders will keep us mighty busy for the next year. But we're going to price it so low that it will be within the pocketbook range of the average small farmer."

Applies for Patent

Mr. Dale stated that he invented the cotton chopper about two years ago and he has been notified by the Government that it is patentable. He has applied for a patent on the chopper, but he already holds a patent on the cultivator attached. He also holds patents on several other types of cultivators and planters developed by him during the past 15 years.

Asked why he had not revealed his invention sooner, he replied that he had wanted to wait until he was positive that it would work perfectly under all conditions. After repeated tests he says he's satisfied. There's nothing to change or improve, he says, and so now he's going to market it.

Mr. Dale said that he and his partner saved $150 last year on about 200 acres. They ran it with one negro and two mules for 30 working days, averaging seven acres chopped and cultivated per day.

"The best a negro can do is chop one acre a day, and he costs about $2," explained Hal W. Dale, son of the inventor. "Actually, anyone who uses the combination chopper and cultivator gets his cotton chopping free, for he has to cultivate anyway."

Will Exhibit at Fair

The chopper and cultivator is mounted on tractor tires. Two mules are hitched in front, and it merely has to be guided from the rear by one person. As it is pulled along, each side of the row is worked by a series of cultivators, behind which revolving blades like those on an ordinary hoe chop the cotton close to the soil. The blades revolve at a good speed through the cotton. They are regulated by a runner on each side that keeps the row from being dup too deep. The support for each blade is attached to the middle of the hoe, so that it doesn't destroy the foliage of the cotton on the next hill.

Mr. Dale will exhibit his invention on a small acreage of ground adjacent to the Fairgrounds during the Free State Fair in Jackson. He planted the acreage in cotton, hoping to give visiting farmers a real demonstration of how it works but no cotton has come up.

"If the rains came," observed Mr. Dale, "they skipped Jackson.

AGRICULTURE - 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

MISSISSIPPI

Miss. Matron Operates Successful Truck, Dairy Farm; Collects Antiques

Former School Teacher Cooperates With County Agents in Her Business

Uses Pressure Milkers on 50 Cows

CHATAWA, Miss.—(ANP)—Demonstrating that feminity is no handicap to a successful career on a farm, Mrs Anna Dillon operates heer a paying truck and dairy farm. Although she is married, Mrs. Dillon who appears to be about 45 years old, manages evry detail of the business.

Peas, beans, corn, vetch and clover are the principal items grown on the place. She specializes in Black Valentine beans, planting two acres each season. Pike county is a truck section. She packs and ships to the nearest market which quotes the best prices.

Mrs. Dillon's dairy herd consists of 26 jerseys. In her immaculate milking shed are installed self-milkers which operate by air pressure. Bottles are washed automatically by motor and inspections by the state department of health are frequent. Her daily production is 50 gallons. She ships to a creamery at Cleveland and in addition sells all the butter and dairy products she can manufacture to a Catholic girl's seminary located here. Her sales from milk and dairy products net her $100 to $150, per month.

"My sixty chickens average about 30 eggs a day," said Mrs. Dillon. "Eggs and chickens are in demand here and I seldom have enough. I live pretty much at home. This year I raised four excellent hogs. I can meat and chickens also as well as vegetables, salads and fruits, using the pressure cooker. This year I have 175 cans of beef meat, pork and chicken. The broilers are thus taken on the yard and I keep chiefly the laying hens. I fry the chicken before canning it. It you have never eaten caned chicken you don't know what's good."

Mrs. Dillon was a teacher when she married some twenty years ago. Her husband, Austin Dillon who has been employed all of his life at the white Catholic seminary, objected to her continuance in the school room, so she plunged into farming, partly as an avocation.

One of the most interesting phases of Mrs. Dillon's home is her collection of antiques. She has four canopied four-poster beds, relics of early ante-bellum days, numerous marble topped carved tables and similar early furniture, much of it bought when plantation owners were selling out or modernizing. Her eventual plan is to sell it. In the meantime she says she is enjoying it herself.

"I cooperate closely with G. W. Bryant and Mrs. Eva L. Gordon, our extension and home demonstration agents," said Mrs. Dillon, "And I do not feel that what I have done is exceptional. All that is needed to succeed in the country is willingness to work and the use of your head as you would in the school room or the city."

WomanOperatesA Truck, Dairy Farm

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26 JERSEYS

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FORMERLY A TEACHER

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Mississippi Farmer Proves Scientific Farming Pays

Takes Brains To Make A Living, Says Sam Cook

2-4-39

McCOMB, Miss. —(ANP)— "It takes brains to make a living upon the farm as truly as it does in the city," said Sam Cook, prosperous colored farmer who lives in Magnolia community near this city, recently. "I prefer life on the farm," he continued, "because I am my own boss and have a feeling of independence which is impossible for the man who works for a salary."

Mr. Cook, who owns 160 acres of land, was allotted only 18 acres to be planted to cotton under the governmental crop control program, but he more than made up for this limitation by diversifying his crop. He grew sweet potatoes and averaged 420 bushels to the acre, using certified plants which not only produced, but escaped the potato weevils which had caused 290 farms in the county to be quarantined. He grows his own cane and makes syrup for his family use, has his own hogs and cows, and made 900 bushels of corn for feed.

Mr. Cook won second place in the "Live At Home" program conducted by a Memphis daily newspaper. His home is modern.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

NATIONAL FARM OWNERSHIP ASSOCIATION

Houma, La. Courier
April 13, 1939

Negro Farm Plan Program Being Pushed

Organization of a local unit of the National Farm Ownership Association is proposed by A. W. Zitton, Gray, La., organizer of units of the association.

The association has for its objective the instigation of a nationwide cooperative movement between negroes, whereby they may become farm owners, with patricular emphasis on the Southern negro. The association, which includes in its executive committee such prominent negro leaders as Dr. R. A. Mayfield, Little Rock, Ark.; Dr. J. A. Campbell, Arkansas; S. W. Green, President of the Liberty Insurance company, John D. Brown, Prof. R. C. Childress, Dr. G. C. Taylor, president of the Philander Smith College and Dr. S. P. Nelson, president of the Arkansas Baptist College, is seeking to improve the status of the negro by assisting him to become a property owner.

A mass meeting within the next two weeks is proposed by A. W. Zitton, who says that negroes in this section will be asked to contribute to a fund for the operation of the association.

The association is anxious to place negroes on farms, basing this objective on the admitted fitness of negroes for farm work.

Sunday Meeting

A meeting has been scheduled at Gray for Sunday, April 16, in connection with the association's activities.

Gastonia N. C. Gazette
January 23, 1939

Negro Farmers Made Great Strides in '38

RALEIGH, Jan. 23.—Negro farmers made great advancements during 1938. reports C. R. Hudson, state agent of Negro work for the State College Extension Service. In some counties they are more than keeping pace with achievements of white farmers.

For instance, C. S. Wynn, Negro agent in Warren County, reports that Albert Wynn, a Negro farmer of near Warrenton, made a net profit of $241.15 from a dairy cow project. The cow came fresh early in March and during the eight months it gave 720 gallons of milk which was worth $280. It also dropped a calf which sold for $5.70, making a total income of $285.70.

Wynn spent $44.55 on feed and other expenses, including a $1 per month fee for pasture during the summer months. Albert planted two acres in cowpeas and cut 4,000 pounds of hay which materially reduced his feed bill.

Mr. Hudson also cited several improvements on farms of Negroes in Chowan and Perquimans Counties, as reported by Negro Agent J. B. Small.

Mary Sumner of the Galatia community is building a modern poultry house, and George Crutchfield of the same community is constructing a farrowing house for his hogs. George has a fine pure-bred Duroc-Jersey gilt that is expected to farrow soon.

Mrs. Julia A. Billups of the Bay Branch community is planning a landscape project, Agent Small further reports. She is seeking to improve her home grounds by moving shrubbery and by new plantings.

William Skinner of the Bethel section is considering the renovation of an old orchard on his place and expects to soon start a young orchard.

Gastonia N. C. Gazette
February 20, 1939

Negro Farmers Making Fine Poultry Records

GREENSBORO, Feb. 20—Negro farmers of Nash and Gates counties are making outstanding poultry records, reports J. W. Mitchell, Negro district agent of the State College Extension Service with headquarters at A. & T. College here.

Mitchell said H. L. Forney of the Bricks community in Nash county was interested in improving his poultry by F. D. Wharton, Negro agent in Edgecombe county. In the spring of 1936 Forney built a new laying house with a concrete foundation at the cost of $33. Since then the Forneys have sold eggs regularly, in addition to vegetables, fruits, honey, milk and butter.

During the month of December this Negro family collected 58 dozens of eggs from 46 Barred Rock hens. The eggs were all sold at 40 cents per dozen, for a monthly total of $23.20. The feed cost during that period was $7, leaving a profit of $16.20. In January one hen died, but the flock increased its production to 70 dozen eggs, which were sold for $25.50. The feed bill in January was $7.50, leaving a balance of $18 for labor and profit.

P. J. Gatling, a Gates county Negro farmer, has a flock of 137 White Leghorns. During January they produced 2,167 eggs, or 180.7 dozen. His eggs brought only 20 cents per dozen, for a total income of $37.36. During the month the chickens consumed 404 pounds of scratch feed, which cost $5.95; 700 pounds of mash at $15.18, and 80 cents worth of shell, making a total cost, excluding labor, of $22.15.

This left Gatling with a labor return of $15.23. This does not include 10 chickens that were consumed in the home during the month.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
February 22, 1939

CORN CONFERENCE TO BE CONDUCTED

Negro Farmers Of Four Counties To Meet Wednesday At Little River School

Negro farmers of Durham, Orange, Person and Granville counties will gather at the Little River high school in this county today for a corn institute, when speakers will stress the importance of diversified farming, and the corresponding dangers in a one-crop system.

Durham county farmers will play host to the visitors at lunch time, providing food for the others.

The meeting will start at the school at 10 o'clock this morning, T. A. Hamme, Negro county farm agent, said yesterday.

E. Y. Floyd of Raleigh will speak on "The 1939 Outlook." C. R. Hudson, state agent, will give an address on "The Corn Summary."

Durham County Agent W. B. Pace will speak on "The Advantages of Diversified Farming." Following Mr. Pace's talk there will be dinner, and then C. W. Tilson of the Farmer's exchange here will speak on "Good Seed and Good Land."

There will be a 20-minute discussion period, after which John W. Mitchell, district agent, will be heard on "A Wholesome Farm Program."

Exhibits of corn will be judged and certificates will be awarded to all persons growing 75 or more bushels per acre.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
February 23, 1939

Negro Farmers Hold Annual Corn Session

Certificates Awarded To Five Who Led Four Counties In Corn Production

Between 250 and 300 Negro farmers of Durham, Granville, Orange and Person counties attended the four-county corn institute held yesterday at Little River high school. T. A. Hamme, Negro farm agent, presented certificates to five farmers who raised more than 75 bushels of corn per acre last year. Those receiving the certificates and the amounts of corn raised were: Joe Mack, 132.8 bushels; John Mack, 92.7; Bernard Harris, 88.8; Robert Jones, 80, and Claude Roberts, 75.4. W. L. Weeks, of N. C. State college, spoke on tobacco while Mr. Broom discussed soil conservation work in this section, stressing crop rotation. C. R. Hudson, state agent, spoke on "The Corn Summary;" John W. Mitchell, district agent on "A Wholesome Farm Program" and C. W. Tilson, of the Durham Farmers Exchange on "Good Seed and Good Land."

The domestic science class of Little River school served luncheon to those present. Next year's meeting will be held in Person county.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
February 20, 1939

Negro Farmers Make Records With Poultry

(Special to The Journal)

Greensboro, Feb. 19.—Negro farmers of Nash and Gates counties are making outstanding poultry records, reports J. W. Mitchell, Negro district agent of the State College extension service with headquarters at A. & T. College here.

Mitchell said H. L. Forney of the Bricks Community in Nash county was interested in improving his poultry by F. D. Wharton, Negro agent in Edgecombe county. In the spring of 1936 Forney built a new laying house with a concrete foundation at the cost of $33. Since then the Forneys have sold eggs regularly, in addition to vegetables, fruits, honey, milk and butter.

During the month of December this Negro family collected 58 dozens of eggs from 46 Barred Rock hens. The eggs were all sold at 40 cents per dozen, for a monthly total of $23.20. The feed cost during that period was $7, leaving a profit of $16.20. In January one hen died, but the flock increased its production to 70 dozen eggs, which were sold for $25.50. The feed bill in January was $7.50, leaving a balance of $18 for labor and profit.

Poultry Farm Report Shows Large Profit

3-1-39

(Special to Journal and Guide)

AHOSKIE, N. C. — The yearly report on the results obtained with a demonstration poultry flock on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. James Sears, of Archertown Community, near here, reveals that while money crops and live-at-home farming is successfully carried out on this farm, the poultry sideline serves to make ends meet in hazard seasons and supplements the family income.

The report was recently submitted to W. C. Davenport of Winton, Hertford County farm agent, who has watched the poultry project on the Sears farm and who has constantly offered instruction and advice on scientific poultry methods.

The report shows that 600 day old chickens, bought and fed at a cost of $679.23 yielded, in the sale of eggs and culled birds, and in those eaten by the family (they were valued at market price) a gross income of $936.39 or a profit of $260.16 for the year.

The 275 laying birds on the yard at present produce 100 eggs a day. The flock produced in the period of 12 months, 28,974 eggs or 2,214 dozens.

At the beginning of this year, the Sears added 525 day old chickens to the flock. The Sears have two modern poultry laying houses. They recently built a large brooder house at the cost of $11.78.

Oxford, N. C. Ledger
March 7, 1939

Negro Farmers Plan Better Gardens Week

Negro farmers of the State, especially those in the 31 counties which have Negro farm agents, are planning to observe Better Gardens Week March 27-April 1, it was announced by C. R. Hudson, in charge of Negro work for the State College Extension Service. The program is designed to stimulate the practice of planting more home gardens, and better gardens with a greater variety of vegetables.

For the past several years the Extension Service has sponsored garden contests among Negro farmers at the start of the planting season, but this year it was decided to accomplish the same purpose with the Better Gardens Week observance. Many novel ideas to promote the program are being arranged by the Negro farm and home agents.

Counties with Negro agents are: Alamance, Anson, Bertie Chowan, Perquimans, Craven, Durham, Edgecombe, Gates, Granville, Guilford, Halifax, Hertford, Iredell, Johnston, Lenoir, Martin, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Orange, Pasquotank, Person, Pitt, Robeson, Rockingham, Caswell, Rowan, Vance, Wake, Warren and Wilson

Hudson said sveral pamphlets circulars and other publications will be available for distribution either through the county agents or upon request to the Agricultural Editor at State College, Raleigh. These include include Extension Folder No. 25, "Good Gardening" which contains an outline of garden work, including a calendar showing the months in which different vegetables may be plantd.

The value of vegetables in the family diet will be stressed throughout the week to impress upon the farmers the value of a home garden as a health factor.

Warrenton, N. C. Record
March 10, 1939

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Goldsboro, N. C., News-Argus
March 15, 1939

Negro Curb Market

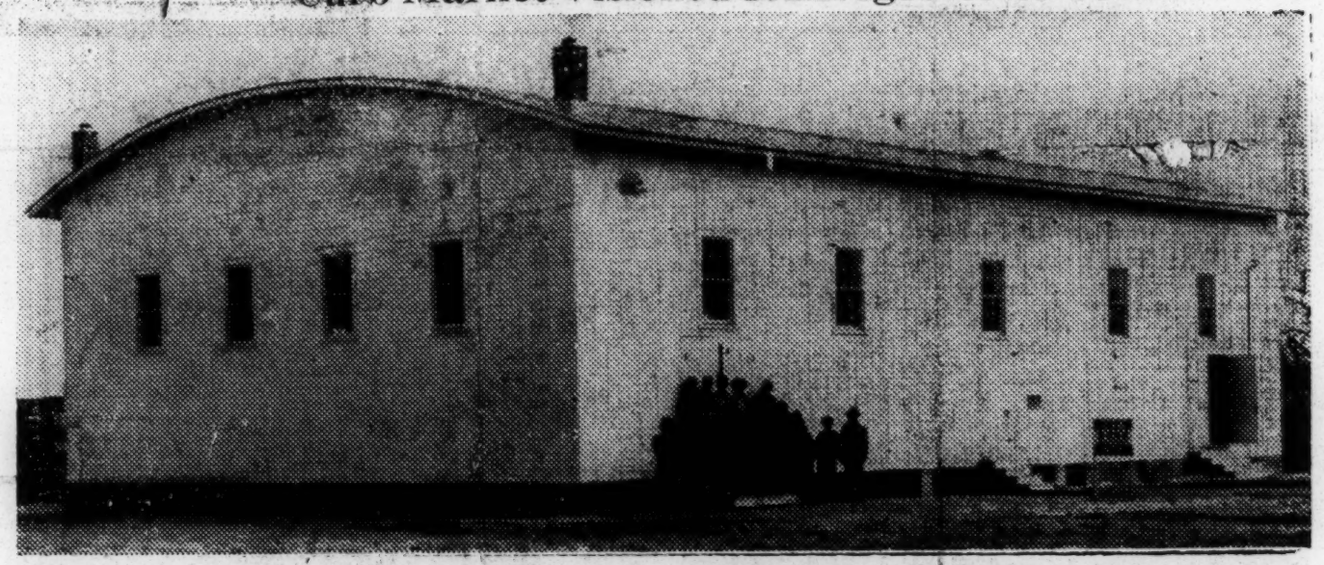
Negroes of Wayne county are discussing informally plans to inaugurate a curb market for Negroes in the recently completed recreation and civic center on South Leslie Street. Gifts by whites and blacks alike made the $12,000 building possible. It is intended to serve the Negro race toward a fuller development in every way possible.

Wayne has a high percentage of Negro farmers. They need a curb market where they can conveniently dispose of their produce. Such a market would be an incentive for more live-at-home farming, for more gardens, more flowers, more fruits, more poultry and more hogs. Benefits from the market would not be confined to the market.

Definite proposals for organization of such a market may be expected in the not distant future.

Goldsboro, N. C. News-Argus
March 14, 1939

Curb Market Visioned for Negro Civic Center



Here is a picture of the new $12,000 Negro Recreation and Civic Center which will be the scene of the first Wayne colored basketball tournament beginning Thursday night. Negro leaders of Wayne are discussing plans for organizing a curb market for negroe farmers to be held in the building which includes an auditorium seating 500, balcony, gymnasium, committee rooms, basement, locker and shower rooms.

AGRICULTURE- 1939 NORTH CAROLINA
IMPROVEMENT OF

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
January 15, 1939

Negro Farmers Of Durham Progress But There Is Room To Improve Yet

County Agent Hamme Is Encouraged By Use Of Legumes

YOUNG FOLKS SHOW WAY

Of 515 Negro Farm Families Here, However, Too Many Are Tenants, Says Agent

By HENRY D. BAKER

Some of the Negro farmers of Durham county appear to have made a very creditable showing in 1938; and to have heeded the stimulating slogan of a great educational leader of their race, Booker T. Washington: "We shall prosper in proportion as we learn to glorify and dignify labor and put brain and skill in the common occupations of life."

An interesting and vivid narrative report that has just been submitted by their farm demonstration agent, Thomas Arthur Hamme, to the N. C. State college, the U. S. department of agriculture, and the commissioners of Durham county, instances a number of outstanding accomplishments he credits to "a few hard-working Negro farmers in the past 12 months." The successes attained by these particular individuals on the honor rolls for the year, are cited as proof that similar gratifying results are possible for probably all of the 515 Negro farm families of the county. These successes included raising poultry and pigs at good profits; attaining a production of over 100 bushels of corn per acre; improving fertility of land and diversification by planting peas, lespedeza, clover and soya beans; better homes and gardens; terracing, etc.; more farm production of food for home needs; and the preservation by the women of food their husbands and sons produced.

John Mack of Lebanon township was the star corn producer of the year and managed to get a record for Negro farmers of 102.7 bushels to the acre. How he did it is told in Mack's own words as quoted by Hamme:

"I do not know how much corn I made on the entire crop, but I certainly made more than I had ever made before on the number of acres

Son Wins Corn Contest



—Photo by T. A. Hamme

John Mack and his son, Joe, competed with one another in growing corn last year. The father grew 102.7 bushels to the acre; the boy, 132.5 bushels. Here they are atop their mountain of grain.

planted. On my one acre demonstration plot I had selected land where I had done gardening for a few years back, and of a rich red clay soil. I applied four loads of stable manure and turned it under with a double plow early in February. Later I drilled 300 pounds of 2-10-4 fertilizer. Early in April I planted my corn. When it was about knee high I applied 100 pounds of nitrate of soda. I intended to give it a second application of this soda, but it rained so much and the corn grew so fast, I didn't get a chance. This corn cost me 20 cents a bushel including my labor. I am thoroughly convinced that it pays to use good seed on good land. The variety I planted was Lathan Double."

Another interesting statement quoted is that of Claude Roberts, Rougemont. He had read a bulletin on "Better Seed Corn" and carefully followed its instructions, and in the main had cultivated and fertilized about the same as John Mack had done. His yield was 75 bushels to the acre, and profit per acre $69.40. "But the biggest surprise came," he said, "After I left home, was doing a little extra work in town, and one night went to the county fair where I had sent some of my corn. I was looking at my own corn and didn't know it. I asked the farm agent where my corn was and he showed it to me. It had taken first prize."

It appears from Hamme's report that "1938 was the best year for legumes that we have had in Durham county for many years. The farmers have now become thoroughly convinced that cowpeas, vetch, red clover, lespedeza and soya beans are worth more than they had hitherto appreciated."

John Holloway of route 6 reported he had a big crop of corn on land where common lespedeza had been grown and now between corn crops keeps all his land in lespedeza. He now gets more hay than ever before in his experience. John Jones of Route 2, Bahama, has also become a decided enthusiast for legumes, and after discovering that clover seed sold for 35 cents per pound, he got the idea of growing lespedeza and clover particularly for profitable sale of seed.

"Home gardening is taking its rightful place among rural people of Durham county," says Hamme. In this respect county home and farm agents work in close cooperation. Farm women now say to the men "If you produce it, we will can it." There was much disposition to improve gardens when it was found they were to be graded, and the results announced at community meetings. In the movement for better homes and gardens, school teachers, preachers, lawyers, business people and farm men and women from other counties actively cooperate. There is much impetus to the painting and white-washing of Negro homes, and raising of sanitary and beautification standards.

There is now hardly a Negro home in Durham county that does not have a flower plot of some kind, while many are surrounded with gardens that seem veritable fairy lands of beauty showing all colors of the rainbow and all kinds of flowers, ferns, shrubbery and vines that grow in this climate. In some instances as many as 30 different varities of flowers surround the homes.

Durham Negro farmers still present county problems, according to Hamme, who says there is too large a percentage of tenant farmers, and also too large a proportion of them grow just one cash crop, tobacco, and have not yet sensed advantages of diversification, and of raising at least their own food. But home ownership is being stressed not only through county agents, but in schools and churches. Young people in some instances are setting good examples to the older folks of better and more profitable farming which makes it possible also to have self-owned homes and better homes. The 4-H clubs of young people have been particularly inspirational for good and sound activities within the county.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
March 27, 1939

NEGRO IS GROWER OF PERFECT CORN

C. W. Slade of Martin County Had Not a Hill Missing or a Barren Stalk

By C. R. HUDSON.

If there ever was an ideal or perfect piece of corn grown it was that grown by C. W. Slade of Rt. 5, Robersonville, Martin County, last season. This is the verdict of a man who has studied corn growing in North Carolina for over thirty years.

C. W. Slade entered into the State Corn Growing Contest under the supervision of Oliver Carter, Negro County Agent for Martin County in January 1938. With the "Ten Commandments of Corn Growing" furnished him and the assistance of the county agent he grew 112.25 bushels of corn on an acre.

The land was real good, sandy loam soil, but not excessively fertile. It was uniform in fertility. The land was broken 10 inches deep, the rows were 4 feet apart, and the corn, Lathams-Double, stood 16 inches apart in the drill. Three cultivations were given. They were shallow and level. In growth the corn was not exceedingly tall, but very uniform, and was rather strong and stocky with no spindling stalks.

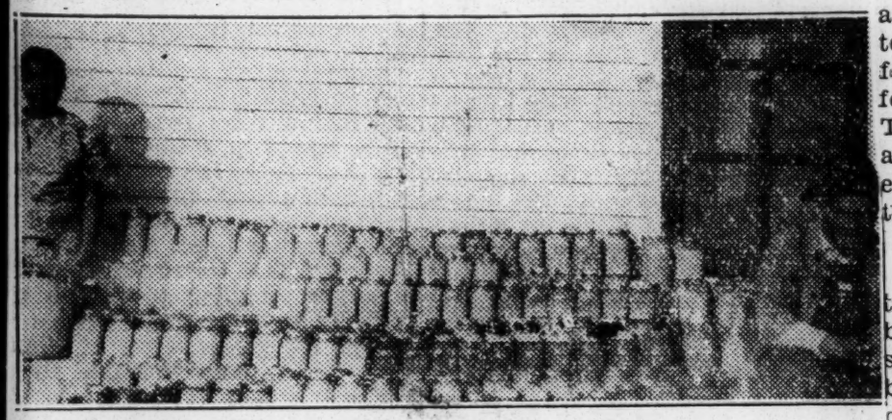
The remarkable things about the corn growing were that there was not a single missing hill or a single barren stalk in the plot and that 86 per cent of the stalks bore two ears. This percentage is exceptionally high.

The fertilizer for the corn cost $12.65; labor $10.65, and the rent was placed at $5 per acre, making the total cost $28.30. Subtracting from this cost the value of the fodder, or stover, $18, the net cost is $10.30. Dividing this by the number of bushels of corn, we get 9 cents per bushel as the actual cost of growing the corn. At 90 cents per bushel his profit is $90.70 on the transaction.

The amount of fertilizer used was more than was advocated, but he seems to have made a splendid profit on the investment because conditions and methods of cultivation were such that the corn could profitably use that amount of fertilizer. After calculating the yield at 70 pounds per bushel for ear corn, another calculation was made of shelled corn, which ran the yield up to 120 bushels per acre because 70 bushels in the ear shelled 60 pounds of corn, instead of 56, which is the standard. So far as known, Slade is the World's Champion adult Negro corn grower for the year 1938.

Smithfield, N. C. Herald
January 3, 1939

Negro Farmer 'Lives At Home'



HENRY DE LAINE, Negro FSA client, and his niece, Blanche Durham, who canned 193 cans of surplus vegetables and fruits after selling on an average of $25 worth each month. Vegetables like corn and butter beans were canned in a steam pressure cooker purchased by De Laine last June.

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FSA Client Relies On Truck Farming

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Vegetables Together With Hogs, Cows And Chickens Provide Cash Income For Negro Farmers Throughout Year

o

That there will be no government tobacco control program next year does not disturb Henry C. DeLaine, Negro farmer of Clayton township, who is purchasing a hundred acre farm through the Farm Security Administration.

De Laine, one of 20 such Negro farmers in Johnston county who are buying farms through F. S. A., does not raise any tobacco, nor does he want to raise any. In 1931, he moved to a farm that had no tobacco barn, and he began organizing his farming operations so that he would have a cash income from some other source. He started raising vegetables for market which together with his hogs, cows and chickens gives him a cash income every month in the year.

"It takes a lot of time and hard labor to make tobacco," De Laine told a Herald reporter. "It also is a year-round job to raise vegetables, chickens, cows and hogs. I could not do both and I will take my present system of farming every time."

De Laine markets his produce mostly in Raleigh and Clayton and he has customers which he serves the year-round. When eggs are plentiful, his regular customers pay him a good price for his eggs, and when they are scarce, he does not go up on the price.

Lives at Home.

When De Laine made out his requisition for next year's crop with the F. S. A., nothing was included for living expenses. He makes his living on the farm and the stock of canned goods which his niece, Blanche Durham, who keeps house for him and four children, has put up is evidence that there is no waste. De Laine has done something that few, if any, Negro farmers in Johnston county has done—he has purchased a steam pressure cooker for his canning. He bought his cooker last June and his pantry now holds 193 cans of vegetables and fruits. Whenever he had butterbeans or English peas that he failed to sell, they were canned for winter use in his own family. This winter he plans, with the aid of Mrs. H. V. Rose, home economics supervisor for F. S. A. to can meats for summer use.

Monthly Cash Income.

On an average, the sale of butterbeans, turnips, peas and string beans brings in $25 per month. In spite of the ravages of the bean beetle last year, he sold $25 worth of butterbeans alone, but this was $115 less than his sales for the previous year. From a half acre in potatoes, he harvested 140 bushels.

De Laine raises Black Essex and Duroc and Poland China crossed hogs. He had 13 to kill this year, with 20 more he did not plan to kill.

A Jersey cow furnishes milk and butter for the family and he sold $14.70 worth last year. He has a calf which he expects to butcher and can with his steam pressure cooker.

From his flock of 45 Rhode Island Red chickens, he sold last year $71.60 worth of eggs.

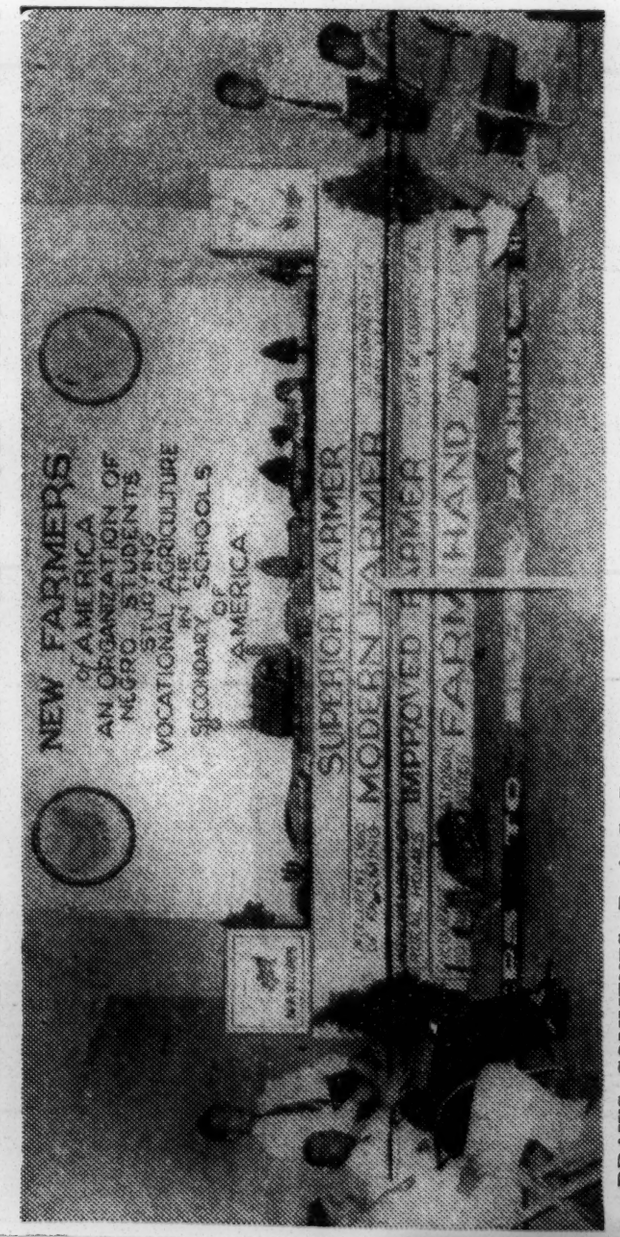
His Cotton Crop.

De Laine farm consists of 47½ cleared acres and 49 acres of woodland. He planted 12½ acres in cotton last year from which he got five bales. He applied his cotton money on his fertilizer bill and F. S. A. account. His annual payment on his land amounts to $257.54. He markets his cotton through the the North Carolina Cotton Growers Association. He has 20 acres in corn with soybeans planted in the corn and six or seven extra acres in this soil building crop.

De Laine purchased his farm two years ago from J. G. Barbour & Sons and he had lived on the place for three years before he bought it. Since his connection with the F. S. A., he has remodeled his six-room house which now has a nice screened back porch, a pump in the kitchen, glass doors in rooms that were dark. The house was covered and painted.

A new barn, meat house and chicken house have been built.

EXHIBIT IS INSPIRATION FOR NEGRO YOUTHS

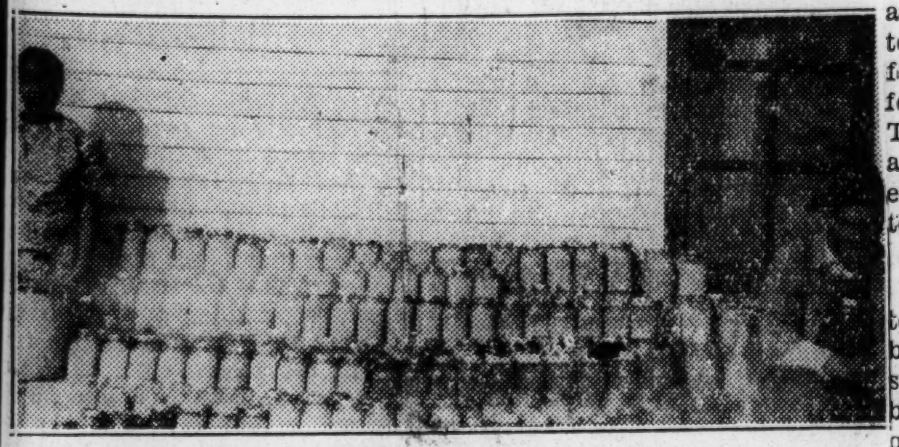


DRAWS COMMENTS—Prof. S. B. Simmons, of A. and T. college, Greensboro, executive secretary of New Farmers of America, says he has received many favorable comments on the above exhibit the organization prepared at the World's Poultry Congress, held recently at Cleveland, O. The exhibit portrays the rise of a negro farm boy from tenant status to farm ownership. Shown in the picture, from left to right, are B. F. Hall, former instructor in vocational agriculture and the Burlington negro high school; William H. Goldsborough, vocational agriculture teacher at Dudley high school, who was general chairman of the exhibit, Clinton Woodard, of Grambling, La.; J. W. Smith, "ranking superior farmer of America" for 1939, Gause, Tex., and Ferdinand Holmes, of Whitehaven, Tenn., second vice president of the organization.

Greensboro, N. C., News
September 25, 1939

Smithfield, N. C. Herald
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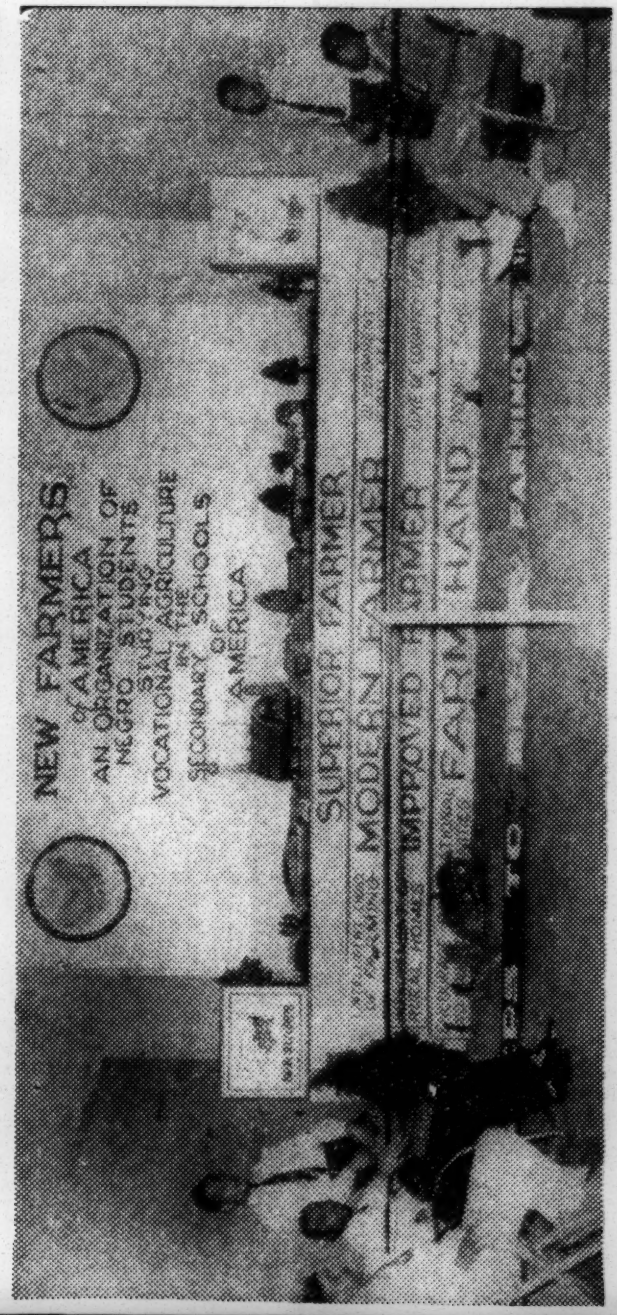
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AGRICULTURE-1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

NORTH CAROLINA

Ahoskie, N. C., Herald
April 6, 1939

State College Officials Praise Progress Made By Colored Farmers

Hertford County Purebred Livestock Tour, Covering 123 Miles, Demonstrates Progress Made By Extension Workers; Ahoskie Canning Club Takes Prize With Exhibit

Fourteen purebred livestock projects on Hertford county farms were witnessed by a 123-mile tour of nearly 200 colored farmers, demonstration workers and State College extension officials Friday.

Following the tour, the group viewed exhibits of the meat-canning activities of eight canning clubs at the Waters Training school and enjoyed a free lunch served by the home economics students of the school. The Ahoskie club won first place in the canning exhibit judging, followed by the Mt. Sinai and Pleasant Plains clubs in the order named.

After the long tour, Frank H. Jeter, extension editor at N. C. State College for more than two decades, and who has visited every county in North Carolina numerous times, was lavish in his praise of what he had seen.

"Hertford county has one of the most progressive colored populations and county agents of any county in North Carolina," he declared. Jeter was impressed by the poultry demonstrations, particularly that on the farm of Bismark Harrell at Winton. Harrell exhibited a modern, painted brooder house containing more than 600 chicks and a modern attractively painted laying house.

After an early start from the courthouse at Winton the tour visited farms in Mill Neck, Como and Mt. Sinai communities. On the farm of Sherwood Banks, the group viewed a purebred broiler demonstration and saw an ingenious home-made brooder house. Alfred Manley exhibited a flock of purebred broilers.

Theodore Myrick, Jr., demonstrated his 4-H club thrifty pig and his purebred flock and brooder house. Henry Ricks, young farmer of the Mt. Sinai section, explained the operations of his broiler flock and brooder house.

The procession of fifty cars then journeyed through Murfreesboro to the Vaughntown community and the farm of J. W. Majette where the tour members exhibited great interest in his white leghorn flock, corn sheller and chicken feed grinder. A purebred bull, property of a ten-man association, and a purebred hog demonstration were also seen on this spotlessly clean farm.

On the Mapleton farm of Al Gatling was displayed a purebred Guernsey bull that had earned $75 for the association that bought it several months ago as a calf for $55.

Also at Mapleton, Jacob Howington explained the history of his purebred leghorn flock of 80 hens that produced 123 dozen eggs during the first 30 days of March.

On A. E. Hall's Pleasant Plains farm a demonstration of 20 small pigs and a number of hogs was viewed. Differences between the purebred hogs and three-quarter breed hogs were pointed out by W. C. Davenport, colored county agent, who conducted the tour.

Tupper Jones explained the building from a junk pile of a home-made brooder that maintains an almost constant temperature. Total cost of the brooder was less than $15. This demonstration was in the Walden community.

One of the most impressive demonstrations viewed was on the Archertown farm of James Sears where two brooder houses, containing nearly 600 chicks, and a flock of 200 Plymouth Rock layers were shown. Operated by Sears' wife as a sideline to her regular chores, sale of eggs to a certified hatchery and sale of fowls and fryers on the market brought this farm an additional income of more than $1,000 during 1938.

At J. W. Sharpe's farm near Harrellsville, the tour saw a Guernsey association bull that was declared to be one of the finest looking specimens in the state by C. R. Hudson, State College extension official in charge of colored agents. Hudson was one of a group of white guests of the tour. Others were R. C. Freeman, county sanitary engineer; Jeter, and W. J. Kelly, associate editor of the Hertford County Herald.

Fifteen six-months old hogs, averaging 175 pounds in weight, and a self-feeder were viewed at the farm of A. H. Brett near Winton. L. G. Manley of the same section exhibited feeding pens, farrowing houses and purebred hogs.

In addition to local extension officials, J. W. Mitchell, district colored farm agent, and colored farm agents from other counties were guests on the tour.

Ahoskie, N. C., Herald
April 6, 1939

NEGROES SHOW PROGRESS

HERTFORD county may well be proud of its high type colored farm population which by all standards ranks above the average of North Carolina's above-the-average citizenry. And Hertford county is fortunate in having the services of a colored county agent who in the words of Frank H. Jeter, North Carolina Extension Editor, is a "real live wire." He does double-duty as farm agent and as home demonstration agent.

Jeter, with other state extension officials, and other white guests accompanied the Annual Purebred Livestock Tour conducted by the colored farm workers of Hertford county Friday. On this tour fourteen farms, as modern and up to date as any in the state, were visited and the purebred hog, cattle and poultry projects were exhibited.

The Hertford County Herald wishes to hail the progress of the county's colored farmers, because their advancement is equally important to the prosperity of Hertford county as that of the white population.

Wilmington, N. C., News
March 16, 1939

Local Negroes Form Farmers' Credit Co-Op

Negro rural residents of the Wilmington section met at the Carvers Creek elementary school building Tuesday night and organized a credit union association as a result of a series of evening classes held by G. L. Laws, agriculture teacher.

The following officers were elected to direct the activities of the association which was organized for the purpose of aiding negro farmers financially:

George W. Brown, president; Dudley Neal, vice-president; Holloway Brown, secretary; and Walter Russ treasurer.

The new association represents some of the most outstanding farmers of the Wilmington area and leaders are anticipating a successful and profitable year of work during 1939.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
May 2, 1939

Negroes Need Farm Training

Agriculture Provides Work For Half Million

About one-half of the million negroes in North Carolina depend directly on agriculture for a living, and it is urgent that they receive more training for their vocation, says John W. Mitchell, negro district farm agent of the State college extension service who maintains headquarters at A. and T. college here.

Speaking at the recent interracial conference at Charlotte, Mitchell emphasized that the success of the other 500,000 negroes who are engaged in vocations and professions other than agriculture is affected by the success or failure of the farmers of the negro race.

"We could well say that much can be accomplished in having better homes, better health, better business, better schools, better churches, and better recreation by having better farms," the extension agent declared.

Cites Record.

As an example of how the extension program can help the negro farmers of a county, Mitchell cited the record of one young trained negro agricultural worker of the extension service in a North Carolina county from December 5, 1935 to January 1, 1939. He was successful in placing 16 pure-bred bulls 28 pure-bred cows, 13 good grade cows, eight pure-bred heifers, 11 good grade heifers, 42 pure-bred boars, 61 pure-bred gilts, 19 good grade gilts, 26,051 pure-bred day-old chickens, and 92 settings of tested eggs for hens.

He also stimulated the building of 11 hog houses, 28 self-feeders for swine, six bull pens, 57 modern laying houses, and 32 modern brooder houses. He helped renovate nine other laying houses, and placed 17 pressure canners.

There are 29 negro farm agents and 15 negro home agents working in 31 counties of the state, as representatives of the extension service.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
April 17, 1939

Negroes Studying Hog Raising



Not only are the white farmers in eastern North Carolina turning to swine production in an effort to balance their farming operations but Negro farmers also are interested. The above picture shows a group of Negroes studying hogs on the farm of Theodore Myrick of Como in Hertford County. He has 14 hogs in the pen averaging about 200 pounds each and has reported to his Negro farm agent, W. C. Davenport, that the hogs are much more profitable than cotton.

Best Farmer to Get $100 Award

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company of Durham, will give a cash award of $100 to the ranking superior farmer for 1939 of the New Farmers of America, according to an announcement by S. B. Simmons, national executive secretary of the organization.

The award will be made by C. C. Spaulding, president of the insurance company, on August 9, as a feature of the national convention of New Farmers of America at the New York World's Fair.

The superior degree is the fourth and highest honor that the organization of colored vocational agriculture students confers on a member.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Weekly News
May 12, 1939

MT. GILIAN NEGRO MODERN FARMER

Mack Faulcon Points Way to Broader Rural Life For Negro Farmers

Enfield, May 8— Mack Faulcon, a Negro farmer of the Mt. Gillian community near Littleton, believes in modern conveniences and recreation as a definite part of an agricultural program, reports D. J. Knight, Negro county farm agent of the State College Extension Service.

Faulcon is pointing the way to a broader rural life for Negro farmers of Halifax County with his wind-charged electric plant and with a fish pond which already has in it about 7,000 fish of various species," Knight said.

The electric plant, in which the batteries are charged with a windmill, is operating eight 32-volt lamps and a radio satisfactorily. The unusual fact about the unit is that it frequently overcharges the batteries on windy days and the generator has to be cut off from time to time.

Faulcon built his fish pond last year. He has enlisted the aid of his neighbors and friends in stocking the pond, and they are putting an average of 50 fish per week into the lake.

Among the 7,000 fish now in the pond are imported perch, horse fish, red-finned packs, catfish, mullet and Herring roaches. Those who contribute fish to the pond are allowed to enjoy the sport of catching them. Faulcon has installed a shower sprinkler in the side of the dam. He has two boats on the pond, one of them a sail boat. There is a fine picnic ground adjoining the lake.

Farm Agent Knight also reported a splendid spirit of cooperation among Negro farmers of Halifax county in crop demonstrations. Among those cooperating are: James H. Davis of Allen Grove, E. M. Whitaker of Enfield, Morris McWilliams of Draper, C. H. Pittman of Eden, Russie Williams of Harrison, Arthur Grey of Eastman, and Plummer Alston of the Airlie community.

Threshing Wheat on a Black Man's Farm in Western Oklahoma



Out in Blaine county where J. A. Rouce and his progressive wife own more than 800 acres of rich wheat land, can be seen in the picture above a crew of harvest hands back in the Territorial days threshing wheat.

The Rouce family is one of the most substantial families in the state and the outfit in the picture above was for many years the only one of its sort in the section where this progressive family lived. Mrs. Rouce for the past forty years has shown much ability alongside of her husband in business acumen and farm management.

AGRICULTURE-1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

PLANT-TO-PROSPER- COMPETITION

Newnan, Ga., Herald
January 12, 1939

Bee Barber, Constitution Award Winner, Is Making Splendid Record As Farmer

Coweta county again received a citation for excellence in farm practices as Bee Barber, of Moreland, Route One, was selected as the tenant winner of the Fourth District in the Plant-to-Prosper contest sponsored last year by The Atlanta Constitution.

Mr Barber has been awarded a cash prize of $50 as a congressional district winner. He will have a chance to compete for the state-wide prizes totaling $3,000 in cash and seven silver trophies, to be announced within the near future.

One of 53 "rehabilitated" farmers working closely with the Farm Security Administration a short while ago, Mr Barber has established himself as one of the most intelligent, capable, and productive farmers in this area. His farm live-at-home program has been eliciting laudatory comment among all who have seen the results of his efforts to "plant to prosper".

Demonstrating the value of modern and intelligent farm practices, Mr Barber raised 15 bales of cotton on 20 acres in 1937, as reported by the Farm Security Administration. His yield this year was correspondingly large, and in addition to his cotton program he is growing enough feed for his livestock.

The Moreland farmer knows the value of cover crops, as well. He had a 6 1-2 acre field of Austrian peas last year, and a substantial acreage in crimson clover. Another valuable asset on the Barber farm is a fine field of oats.

COWETA NEGRO WINS CONSTITUTION AWARD

John C. Connally, of Senoia, R.-2 Sunday was announced as the Fourth Congressional district winner in the Atlanta Constitution's 1938 state-wide "Plant-to-Prosper" award, in the negro division. Connally's entry was adjudged best in the entire Fourth district, and will be judged with others in competition for the state awards.

The Senoia negro has established a fine record as a farm operator. He owns his own farm near Senoia, and is operating it according to methods approved by the state farm service at Athens.

Dawson, Ga., News
January 5, 1939

COLORED FARMER OF COUNTY WINS CONTEST

SHED JAMES, TERRELL WINNER IN CONSTITUTION'S FARM CAMPAIGN.

Shed James, well-known colored farmer of Terrell county, has been named a winner in the Atlanta Constitution's "Plant-To-Prosper" campaign announced last January 23.

Winners were selected from an entry list of approximately 7,000 planters, representing some 1,000,000 of Georgia's farm acres. County judges announced selections and the Constituton will award a certificate to each farmer chosen.

All those designated will compete for congressional district honors and the winners from that group will vie for state recognition in the final judging.

A total of 165 winners were selected in the white divisions and 43 in the negro competition.

The announcements herald the wind-up of the 1938 competition sponsored by the Constitution as a stimulus to living at home and to make the Georgia farmer more economically independent through diversification of crops, conservation of soil and improvement of living conditions.

The Constitution offered $4,000 in 33 cash awards, eight silver trophies and certifices of merit for every county winner. The program met with immediate response from planters and from the general public. Additional prizes were offered in various counties and districts. They are valued at more than $4,000. Thus winners in the various brackets will receive cash and awards in excess of $8,000.

The Terrell county winner is a share-cropper on the old Moreland farm in the Sasser community, and is a leader among members of his race. He had charge of the colored exhibit from Sasser at the recent Peanut Festival in Dawson, and is active in the various phases of betterment promoted for the benefit of colored farmers in the county.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
February 13, 1939

1,600 in Farm Contest

MEMPHIS, Feb. 12 (AP).—Plant-to-prosper campaign headquarters announced today 1,600 midsouth farm families already had enrolled in the 1939 competitions.

Last year only 425 families were enrolled during the same length of time. Participants included 368 families in Arkansas, 112 in Tennessee, 109 in Missouri and ninety-nine in Mississippi. Nine hundred and two Negro farm families also have entered.

The campaign is sponsored by the Commercial Appeal and the agricultural committee of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

COTTON MINOR CROP TO NEGRO WINNER

Landowner Near Statesboro Netted $950 on Livestock Sales.

3-19-39

It was a far cry from the modest sharecropper in 1920 to a landowner and 1938 winner of the $500 award for being the best negro farmer in Georgia for Eddie Wilson, whose 268 acres lie just southeast of Statesboro.

The 40-year-old owner of the tract with its 124 cultivated acres and the 144 he has in timber was anxious when Constitution representatives visited him along with J. W. Gaskin, assistant Bulloch county agent, and J. T. Davis, manager of the office of Byron Dyer, Bulloch county agent. He "hoped" he would win.

Proudly, Wilson exhibited his farm, his spotlessly kept home, and his "adulterated" hogs and cattle.

Cotton Minor Crop.

Cotton was a minor crop for Wilson's acres. His live-stock sales netted him $950 while he received only $735 for his cotton.

In discussing farming, the winner was somewhat philosophic and voiced an often-repeated policy in the art of profitable farming.

"The program has meant an education to me," he said. "It taught me to grow what I need to live on and to feed my stock, and to plant what cotton I could grow and make money on.

"If any farmer grows what he needs and changes his crops around using all his waste land and adding a little fertilizer to his crops, he can make a profit from his farm.

"A good practice is to always carry something to town to exchange for what you need instead of going to town with an empty wagon and coming back with a full one. If we practice going to town with an empty wagon and coming back with one full all the year, we will come back in the fall with an empty pocketbook and a big debt to start on next year."

In 1920, he was like scores of other farm negroes of Georgia. He had a family to care for and he had no vocation and knew nothing except farming. He took a job as a sharecropper, and saved his money.

Saved as Sharecropper.

When the bottom fell out of what seemed to be the "world in about 1930," Wilson had saved a little money. He decided, while the depression was at its height in 1931, that he would go into "farming myself."

"I took some money I saved as a sharecropper and bought my first land then," he said. "I made money from the start because I didn't buy anything I could raise and I grew everything we needed."

His accomplishment in 1938 is a story of farm achievement, and the white men who have helped to guide him are proud of his record.

Stock and hogs brought Wilson $950 last year; hogs mothered largely by a hybrid sow named "Bessie," who produced three litters containing 34 pigs in 1938, $840 of the total. He made 16 bales of cotton on 21 acres of land and "had a bad year."

Those were just some of the major crops. He bought only "coffee and a few things I really didn't need."

From the proceeds of last year's income, Wilson decided he wanted another 73 acres to add to the land he already had and bought them. He has placed 20 acres in cultivation and the remainder in timber, which brought him a large part of his $3,000 farm profits for last year.

New Fence Planned.

Asked about the breed of his hogs and cattle, he responded:

"They are slightly adulterated. I don't have breeded ones."

Although Wilson did not know that he had won any award, he said if he won, he would put up a new fence about one of his prize fields and use the rest to improve the farm generally.

Part of it will go into a plumbing system for his home to replace the well.

He has chickens, goats and other farm animals. The goats are a source of cash income.

There are two sons, Woodrow, 17, and Harvey, 18. Both attend an agricultural college and plan to be farmers.

Wilson's home is spotless, kept that way by his wife, Bessie. Long lines of jars of canned vegetables and fruits line shelves in the kitchen and a pretty wood range, red and white, stood proudly.

"I told the woman to quit scrubbing the floors of the house so much because she was rottening the boards," he said when visitors remarked about the cleanliness of the place.

The home, however, demonstrated clearly that the injunction had little effect. One could have gone through the house with white gloves on and come out with them still only slightly soiled.

epicted by the Plant-to-Prosper Camera

D



Eddie Wilson, winner of the $500 cash award for being the best negro farmer in Georgia, is seen above with some of his mules. He lives on his farm near Statesboro, Bulloch county. He will use his winnings to improve his already large and productive farm.

Constitution Staff Photos—Rogers

and eight children, three of them being married. Five are still at home, while he is sending two of his girls to the Georgia Normal College at Albany where they are taking special training in Home Economics.

He says he stays at home and works hard and tends to his own business, but is trying to give his children and education and a chance to make good citizens.

Abrams says he has never been in any trouble of any kind, but once made the mistake of standing security for a friend and had to pay it, so now he doesn't believe in standing security for folks.

Makes Good Record

Abrams record is an enivable one and is proof of what can be done by thrifty, intelligent, hardworking colored farmers, if they apply themselves .

Henderson, Tenn., Independent
April 6, 1939

152 Enroll For Plant To Prosper

LAST YEAR'S STATE AND COUNTY WINNERS INCLUDED IN 1939 ENTRANTS FROM CHESTER

Chester County has enrolled 152 families in this year's Plant to Prosper Competition sponsored by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce and the Commercial Appeal, names of that many entrants having been sent into Plant to Prosper headquarters at Memphis this week by County Agent F. H. Paschal.

Of those entering from this county, 137 were for the Plant to Prosper Competition proper, and 15 were entrants in the negro Live at Home Competition. In the former classification, 83 of the entrants were in the Landowners' Division, and 54 in the Tenants' Division.

Previous county champions were again enrollees, among them being Mr. and Mrs. Carmen Johnson of the New Friendship community, who not only won first place in the Landowners' division in the county in both 1937 and 1938, but who also carried off third place honors for the entire state. Mr. & Mrs. V. L. Griffith of Jacks Creek, 1936 champions, and runners-up in 1937 and 1938, are also entrants again in the Landowners' Division. .

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sparks of the Wilson community, county winners for the last two years in the Tenants' Division, have re-entered, as have also Mr. and Mrs. Murray Webb, north of Henderson, who finished second last year.

In the colored Live-at-Home Contest, Marshall Webb and wife of the Jacks Creek section, who won state honors last year by placing fourth in this competition, are also out to repeat this year, if possible.

A grand sweepstakes prize of $500 goes to the landowner or tenant who makes the best record in living at home makes the best record in living at home, diversification, soil conservation and home improvement among entrants from the four states covered by the competition, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri.

In addition there is a $250 sweepstakes award, eligible only to tenant or sharecropper, who makes the best record in the entire competition. State landowner awards are $100 for first place, $75 for seconr and $50 for third, with similar prizes goint to the top three in the State Tenant Division.

The Chester County Fair Association also offers cash awards for county winners.

The competition this year, the deadline for which closed last Saturday night, is slated to have almost 30,000 contestantss for the many wards offered,

Thomasville, Ga., Wkly. Times-Ent.
May 26, 1939

THOMAS COUNTY NEGRO RECEIVES AWARD OF HONOR

Jordan Abrams of Near Boston Wins Certificate of Honor in Constitution's Plant to Prosper Competion

Jordan Abrams, 56 year old colored farmer, living ten miles south of Boston, was in Thomasville Monday afternoon, exhibiting an Honor Certificate which he recently received in the Atlanta Constitution's Plant to Prosper Competition program.

Jordan is as proud of this gold embossed certificate as if it represented real money, and plans to place it in a glass encased frame and save it so his grandchildren can see and understand the recognition that was given to him in this contest.

The Certificate of Honor, carried the following inscription on it:

"The award of merit is made to Jordan Abrams, of Thomas County, for making the BEST RECORD in the LANDOWNERS' Division, following a Live-at-Home Program, Diversified Farming, Soil Conservation and Farm and Home Improvement."

It was signed by Clark Howell, Editor and Publisher of the Constitution.

Owns 157.9 Acre Farm

Abrams owns his own farm consisting of 157.9 acres, situated 10 miles south of Boston near the Florida line. He states that he has owned and lived o nthis farm for the past thirty years, and now lives within half a mile of where he was born 56 years ago.

He states that he raises lots of truck, cotton, corn, peanuts and the usual run of farm produce on his place, including hogs and cows, but he had no tobacco. He thinks the most important item on his farm is his truck crops and livestock, because both of them have quick cash markets and with the cash returns from his truck in the spring he is able to finance the remainder of his farm operations during the year, and live and get along better as a result of being able to buy more advantageously for cash rather than on the long credit plans.

Has Eight Children

Abrams is married and has a wife

Sumter, S. C., Herald
January 24, 1939

NEGRO FARMER HAS OUTSTANDING RECORD OF CORN AND COTTON PRODUCTION

Joe McMillan Grows Eight Bales of Cotton on Five Acres. 531 Bushels of Corn on Similar Area.



Five-acre corn and five-acre cotton fields of Joe McMillan, Sumter county, which produced 531 bushels of corn and eight bales of cotton respectively. Photographs made in August, 1938.

Farming in Sumter county is not a hopelessly unprofitable occupation for a small farmer, provided the farmer is able and willing to work, and intelligently directs his efforts in acordance with the advice obtainable from extension service agents.

The best proof of this assertion is the citation of actual achievements by individual farmers who have operated their farms according to this formula.

In substantiation of these statements extracts from the annual report of J. C. Malony, Negro Farm Demonstration Agent for Sumter county, are herewith presented.

Joe McMillan is an outstanding example of what the extension work is doing to help improve the living condition of Negro farmers. He is located in the Oswego section on Highway No. 763, about seven miles from Sumter on a fifty-four acre farm which he is purchasing from the Federal Land Bank. After concluding his arrangements to purchase the farm he sought the advice and supervision of Extension Agent Malony. His cropping guide was outlined for the year 1937 and here follows Agent Malony's reports on the operations for two crop years, 1937 and 1938:

1937

"Two demonstrations were put on—five acres in cotton and five acres in corn, both in the same field facing the highway.

"On the five-acre cotton demonstration, he applied one ton of home-mixed fertilizer—10-4-4—at a cost of $20.00; broadcast the field with farm manure valued at $15.00; and put down 100 pounds of nitrate of soda to the acre, as a side dressing. About the middle of July, cotton grew rank and the boll weevil infestation was heavy, so the agent had the cotton topped back eighteen inches, and continued plowing until the middle of August.

"From this five-acre demonstration, he sold 3,502 pounds of lint cotton, which brought him $315.10. The seed brought $95.00, which made a total income of $410.10 from the cotton. The total cast was $144.50, and the total profit $265.50. The cost is itemized as follows:

Home-mixed fertilizer 10-4-4, 1 ton	$ 20.00
Nitrate of soda, 800 lbs.	8.50
Farm manure	15.00
Seed, Cleve Wilt Strain, No. 4	5.50
Men and horse labor	18.50
Picking	49.00
Ginning	28.00
Total	$144.50

Corn Demonstration

"Adjoining this cototn demonstration, a five-acre corn demonstration was conducted, yielding 377 bushels, averaging a little more than 75 bushels to the acre. The corn was produced at a total cost of $76.00, and a cost of 20.1c per bushel. He also harvested 1,750 pounds of cow peas from this same field.

"Itemized cost of corn demonstration:

Fertilizer, home-mixed, 10-4-4, 1,000 lbs.	$ 10.00
Nitrate of soda, 1,000 lbs.	15.00
Labor, man and horse	50.00
Seed, Douthit's	1.00
Total	$ 76.00

"It may be pointed out that McMillan states that this is the first time in the history of his farm experience that he has produced enough corn to supply his farm needs and some to sell.

"In addition to these two demonstrations, he has a year-around garden, poultry to supply home needs, a dairy cow, a yearling weighing 350 pounds to be canned by the home agent, and also made some improvements about the house which added to the comforts of the home. He built a barn for his corn and a sanitary toilet from lumber cut from his own farm.

1938

"This year McMillan continued the two 5-acre demonstrations in cotton and corn, planted corn where cotton and cotton where corn was last year. On cotton five-acre demonstration:

"Harvested: 4,062 lbs, of lint cotton or eight bales.

"Variety: Cleve Wilt Strain 4.

Total value (including seed)	$509.66
Total cost	179.74
Total profit	$329.92

Cost:

Land rent, $4 per acre	$ 20.00
Fertilizer, 8-4-4, 2,500 lbs. (home mixed)	33.11
Nitrate of soda, 500 lbs.	8.50
Agricultural lime, 1,000 lbs.	3.25
Farm manure, 10 tons	80.88
Cultivation	14.00
Total	$179.74

"The cotton cost above $.04 per pound to produce it. The cotton was planted April 10 and 15.

"After the 4th of July, continued cultivating both sides of the cotton once every week and split the middle, until the last of August, when cotton began to open. The cotton was topped the last of July.

"The five-acre corn demonstration was planted in rows 4 ft. 9 inches; was planted in drill from 5 to 9 inches. Had an average of 14,000 stalks to the acre and the stalks averaged two ears to the stalk—many having three large ears. The corn variety, Douthit's Prolific, planted April 20. The land was treated with 200 pounds of agricultural lime per acre before the corn was planted. It was fertilized with stable manure, 1,000 pounds to the acre, 300 pounds of 8-4-4, and 200 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre. Made a total yield of 531 bushels of corn—an average of 106.2 bushels per acre.

Cost of corn:

Fertilizer, 8-4-4, home-mixed	$18.50
Nitrate of soda, 1,000 lbs.	17.00
Agricultural lime, 1,00 lbs.	3.25
Labor, man and horse	15.00
Land rent	20.00
Farm manure, 5 tons	10.00
Total	$83.75

Cost around $.16 per bushel.

"Joe McMillan had a year-around garden, 200 bushels of sweet potatoes, will butcher enough hogs for home use, a yearling calf weighing about 350 pounds to can, plenty of corn for family and live stock, plenty of fruit and vegetables canned to take them through the winter."

The following additional extracts from Agent Malony's report indicate the constructive work that is being carried on in Sumter county with both Negro 4-H club boys and adult farmers:

4-H Club Work

There were 495 boys enrolled in 4-H Club work.

We have in the county 30 4-H clubs in 30 communities. Number of 4-H club leaders, 30.

Corn demonstrations:

Boys completing	286
Number of acres	286
Total yield, bushels	11,400
Average yield per acre, bushels	39.8
Total cost	$3,171.35
Average cost per bushel	27.9c

NEGRO FARMER HAS — TWO

Hog demonstrations:

Boys completing	168
Total number of hogs (fattening class)	205
Total number pounds of meat gained	31,613
Total value	$2,688.76
Total cost	$812.43
Total profit	$1,876.33

Adult hog demonstrations:

Number of hog demonstrations	5
Total number hogs	47
Total number of pounds gained	6,706
Total value	$611,74
Total cost	$238.02
Total profit	373.72

Corn demonstrations:

There were five five-acre corn demonstrations conducted in five communities.

Number of acres	25
Total yield, bushels	1,721
Average yield per acre, bushels	69
Total cost	$347.60
Average cost per bushel	21c

Realizing that corn is the power of the farm and that it is impossible for farmers to continue to stay on the farm unless they grow enough corn for home use and livestock, we carry on demonstrations in communities where farmers do not grow enough corn for home use.

There were four five-acre demonstrations in cotton in four communities.

Total number of acres	20
Total number of bales	23
Total value (including cotton-seed) 23 bales cotton	$1,356.70
Total cost	$503.04
Total profit	$853.66

Clevewilt Strain 3 and 4 were used in these four demonstrations.

Home-mixed fertilizers.

Method of controlling boll weevil

after July 4 was a continuation of plowing the cotton until the bolls began to open. Both sides were plowed and the middle split once per week when possible.

Robert Green's Live at Home Program on His Farm.

Good home orchard, built a modern poultry house, 40 pure bred Rhode Island Red hens. has two incubators running now with a total of 360 eggs.

Marketed from his truck garden, vegetables, $210.35. Hogs sold $74.90. Chickens sold $55.75. Eggs sold $15.40. Pigeons sold $14.80.

Built a sweet potato house out of pine poles and cured his sweet potatoes.

Farm agent taught Green how to grade his potatoes and he is now marketing for 75c per bushel.

Green only made three bales of cotton on his two-horse farm.

Total number of acres in this farm, 67; number of acres under cultivation, 40.

He is buying this land from the Federal Land Bank.

Laurens, S. C. Advertiser
March 9, 1939

Negro Student Wins $30 Contest Prize

Marion Barksdale, negro student of Mt. Carmel school near Owings won the district and state prizes amounting to $30.00 for having the best corn project of all contestants in the Chilean nitrate corn and cotton contest for 1937-38, according to M. M. Sitton, vocational agricultura teacher at the school under whose supervision the project was conducted. He planted one acre of corn on bottom land, using the improved practices of soil preparation, planting soil cultivation, fertilizing and insect control. His fertilizer consisted of 400 pounds of 7-5-5 and 200 pounds of Chilean nitrate of soda. He produced 76 bushels of corn and 767 bundles of fodder, bringing a net profit of $24.43 and a labor income of $37.67 per acre.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
June 19, 1939

More Cotton Blooms

Later in the day cotton blooms were reported from two different sections of the county. J. M. Cox sent in a red bloom from his farm near Troy and W. J. Connelly, of Ninety Six, reported that Maxie Rice, a colored tenant on the farm of Gilliam Bratton, three miles of Ninety Six, had blooms.

Anderson, S. C., Mail
May 22, 1939

DID YOU KNOW OR HAVE YOU HEARD?

Robert Smith, negro farmer living north of Anderson, capturing the honor of being the first person to have a cotton bloom this year by a full month in advance of the usual time . . . There is, of course, no trick in it at all, as the negro explained with a churckle . . . Back in February, he explained, a small cotton plant appeared in a flower pot that was being kept in his house . . . The plant was nurtured carefully and recently has been planted on the outside, where the first square appeared several days ago and then the initial bloom . . . The farmer hopes to have an open boll of cotton by the latter part of July or the first of August . . . . A sea gull has taken up its residence near Anderson, several hundred miles from its native haunts . . . The bird was first seen here about one week ago . . . It finally spied a fish pond located at the O'Neal dairy farm, north of Anderson, and proceeded to take up its residence there . . . The gull has already becmoe partially tamed, and eats crackers fed to it by Louise O'Neal . . . Unfortunately, however, someone took a pot shot at the bird with a shotgun several days ago, and injured it in one of its wings . . . The gull left the pond for one night after that assault, but it was back the next day, and will probably recover, unless some thoughtless persons shoots at it again.

Local dime store displaying packages containing a dozen cotton seeds, with instructions for planting them in the front yard in early spring so that the bloom followed by the cotton boll would mature during the late fall . . . The directions added that the plants would be both beautiful and "instructive for children" . . . The seeds were, of course, put up for sale at places outside the cotton belt . . . The current issue of The Clemson Tiger quoting Prof. Ferrier, of that institution, as saying: "If you can't make money farming—, get a job teaching people how to farm" . . . And Prof A. G. Holmes, of that fountain of knowledge, saying that "women who have none to care for go out and help the poor—r study Culbertson and play bridge" . . . Dr. D. W. Daniel, and Prof. Mark E. Bradley, of the Clemson English department, are currently engaged in the preparation of a book on the art of public speaking.

Laurel is now in full bloom in the foothills, and within the next few weeks will reach a peak of loveliness in the nearer mountain ranges . . . Boscobel lake lighted up last night, although swimmers were few and far between. 3

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
August 18, 1939

Example of Charles Brown

A few days ago the Spartanburg newspapers printed an item telling of the success of Charles Brown, Negro resident, in the cultivation of vegetables in his back yard. To quote him: "I have raised all the vegetables that my family and friends could eat this year, canning some for winter. The garden is very small and I did all the breaking of ground by hand, using a hoe. No plow nor animal has been used. The garden has saved me many dollars this season."

Brown's example is one that might profitably be followed by persons who live in town as well as by those who live on farms. There are many thousands of men who live on farms, where they have ample land for gardens, who know little of vegetable growing and the value of fresh vegetables as food for their families.

A garden spot properly fertilized, planted and cultivated can be made to produce a large part of the family food during three-fourths of the year. Yet one may travel through this county and state and see thousands of homes in rural districts without well tilled gardens. Many have no gardens whatever.

Fresh vegetables on the table of every South Carolina farmer would mean health and wealth for the state.

Nashville, Tenn Banner
February 22, 1939

To Conduct Poultry School

Pulaski, Tenn., Feb. 22—(Special)—A. J. Chadwell, poultry specialist of the extension division of the University of Tennessee, will conduct a school on improved poultry practices for the benefit of Negro farm men and women Saturday. The meeting will be held at the Courthouse.

Lexington, Tenn., Leader
March 31, 1939

Local Colored Boy Wins State Honors

Grady Lee Yarbro, senior of Montgomery High School won the highest honors on the state championship judging team at the State Convention which was held on March 24-25 at A and I State College, Nashville. Grady was the high point man out of some five hundred farm boys who participated in the district and state competition.

He will go to Bardstown, New Jersey this summer to represent the State of Tennessee at the National Agricultural Convention.

In addition he will be given a trip to New York to visit the World's Fair with all expenses paid and a scholarship for one year to Agricultural College.

Much credit is due his teacher Prof. A. L. Robinson, who has developed a state champion in his second year at Montgomery will accompany his pupil on the trip.—C. C. Bond, Principal.

Memphis, Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
March 10, 1939

Rural Power To Be Topic

DELLS, Tenn., March 9.—Plans for rural electrification in Crockett County will be discussed at a meeting here Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. M. M. Johns, extension engineer for the Rural Electrification Authority, is expected to attend. The meeting was called by the Crocket County Farm Bureau.

Clarkesville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
April 28, 1939

Negro Farmers Practice Terracing

A group of Negro farmers of the Ringgold and Walnut Grove communities united their efforts in soil erosion control by terracing, J. R. Branham, local colored agent, said today.

The work being done by these farmers, Frank Thacker, Douglass Carney and Henry Gholsten, is a splendid example of farm cooperation and what can be done when a few farmers cooperate on such projects as terracing and other similar projects requiring either an increased amount of horse or machine power, Branham said.

On Wednesday and Thursday April 26, and 27, these farmers united their efforts and constructed a total of 3,000 feet of terraces by the use of horsepower and home-made equipment. These terraces were constructed on the farms of Frank Thacker and Doglass Carney. The next day of terracing work will be done on the fram of Henry Gholsten.

The work being done on these farms is designed for demonstration and is open for inspection by interested farmers at their convenience.

In practically every Negro community in Montgomery County terraces are much needed as a mean of soil erosion control, Branham declared. With a small amount of co operation on the part of these Negro farmers and land owners, terrace can be economically and efficientl constructed with homemade equipment drawn by horse power.

Somerville, Tenn., Falcon
June 29, 1939

COLORED FARMER AGAIN REPORTS FIRST BLOSSOM

Ben Spencer, Tenant Farmer Wins Falcon Award For First Bloom

Ben Spencer, colored farmer on the W. W. Miller farm in the Ninth district, was again the first to report a cotton bloom to the Falcon office. Spencer has been among the first to send in blooms for four consecutive years, and has been the first for three of the four.

Last year he reported the first bloom of the season on June 19. This year the first bloom was reported on June 25, six days later than last year.

The cotton, according to Spencer, was planted on April 10.

Spencer will receive The Falcon for one year as his prize for reporting the first cotton blossom for the year.

Finishing Touches Are Added To 11,900-Acre Farm Project For West Tennessee Tenants

Security Administration Is Directing Work On 138 Units Averaging About 80 Acres— Live-At-Home Program Urged

10-2-39

Uncle Sam, in his battle to keep the American farmer on his farm, is putting the finishing touches on an 11,900-acre agricultural project in West Tennessee.

Known as the Tennessee Farm Tenant Security Project with headquarters at Brownsville, the farms are under direction of the Farm Security Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture.

On the 138 farm units of the project, 123 former tenants and sharecroppers are being given an opportunity to raise their standard of living and to become farm owners. Others will be selected as soon as the land is ready for them.

Community Manager Stanley Rice has profited from the experience of other projects and will not let the families go on the land until it has been properly terraced, ditched, drained and the soil fertility rebuilt.

Average Is 80 Acres

The farms average about 80 acres and are located in five counties, Carroll, Crockett, Haywood, Shelby and Madison. Twelve of the farms are in Shelby County at Parkfield; 36 are in Madison; eight in Carroll and 26 in Crockett.

Fifty-six of the farms are in Haywood. These are colony or group type on two large tracts of land. One site of 1800 acres, containing 19 farms is located eight miles southeast of Brownsville. On a 3800-acre tract three miles southeast of Stanton 37 farms for negroes.

Mr. Rice is a practical farmer. He doesn't believe in painting rosy pictures of the future of the project nor in giving false hopes to those seeking an easy path to farm ownership. He believes in hard work and increased effort in order to increase income.

"The average size of our farms, 80-acres, is about all the crop land one family can cultivate," he said. "This also allows enough pasture and hay crops for additional income from livestock. We hope to increase cash income by the increased sale of livestock and livestock products and the growing of vegetable or truck crops rather than the old one-crop system.

"But the one big thing to remember in carrying out our live-at-home program is for each family to have four or five cows to enable them to have a steady income from the sale of cream all the year round. Some are doing that now and are making good."

Largest Terraced Block

The 3800-acre tract near Stanton is the largest body of land in Tennessee on which terraces, outlets and ditches to take care of all waterfall have been planned as a single unit. It is one of the largest blocks of completely terraced land in the United States. Much of the labor was furnished by the WPA.

Probably the most striking contrast is in the farm buildings. Side by side with the dilapidated, leaky, unsanitary, old tenant houses stand the roomy, white-frame farm homes developed by the Farm Security Administration and built for less than $1100. These four, five and six room homes are sealed and wired for electricity. Most of them have the living room across the front, three bedrooms, kitchen, screened work porch and front porch. Each unit also has a barn, 50-hen poultry house and smokehouse. The barns are adequate for the storing of corn and hay with plenty of stall room for workstock and cows and storage space for farm tools.

Each home has a pump well with a concrete base in order to insure a sanitary water supply. The base contains a seal that prevents any surface water from getting in the well.

The farms are all fenced, terraced and ditched. Including everything, the units will cost between $4500 and $5000 with all improvements, according to Mr. Rice.

Given Operating Loans

Each farm tenant accepted on the project is given an operating loan for the year. With this operating loan, he buys the seed and tools and equipment necessary for farming. Each family also receives guidance in farm and home planning from a farm management specialist and home management supervisor.

The farm plans are worked out by the families with the guidance of the FSA. They are designed to give enough cash income to enable the farmer to meet the payments on his loan and provide a satisfactory living for his family. The plan usually calls for the sowing of cover crops and the use of commercial fertilizer where needed.

Where the families are in the status of renters they pay one-fourth of their crop. Where they have purchase contracts they pay $43.26 per $1000 valuation. This will amortize the loan at 3 per cent over a 40-year period.

Families accepted for the project remain in the status of renters long enough to determine whether they can be expected to make a success as landowners.

But what of the progress made by the families?

Take the family of Ed L. Davis, 35, his wife, Mary, 32, and their two girls and two boys. A file in the project office tells the complete history of their courage and spirit in climbing back up the economic ladder to security and independence.

Had Been On Program

The Davis family had been on the Rural Rehabilitation Program of the Farm Security Administration before they were accepted on the project. Their average net worth was much higher than most of the others. In March, 1937, their net worth was $574. Just as everything was looking up for them, fire destroyed their barn, three mules and all their hay and feed. At the end of 1938 their net worth had dropped to $366.72. They had not planned to borrow any money during 1939 but had to borrow $550 to buy mules, gear, feed and tools lost in the fire.

In 1937, Ed and Mary Davis won first place in the Tenant Division of the Plant-To-Prosper Contest in Haywood County. In 1938 they won the Home Improvement Award for Haywood County.

Mrs. Fanny Buntin, home management supervisor, praises them highly. "They take great pride in fixing up their home and making it more livable," she said. "They are always eager to attend meetings of an educational nature that will make them better farmers."

Another file holds the story of the uphill climb of James J. Sims, 31, his wife, Irene, 21. They have two sons, Earl, 4, and Dale, eight months, the first baby born on the project. Sims was a hard working tenant farmer, highly regarded by the landowners for whom he worked. His net worth in 1939 when he came on the project was $586.75. His debts amounted to only $83. This year he borrowed $310 for new equipment, seed, fertilizer and living expenses. Next year he hopes to be able to make it alone.

Won Second Place

The Simses won second place in 1938 in the Haywood County Tenant Division of Plant-To-Prosper. The value of the live-at-home program did not have to be stressed to James F. Castellaw, 30, and his wife, Iva, 24, their two golden-haired girls and blue-eyed boy.

James was known as a hard worker when he applied for a home on the project in 1939. He had to borrow $695 with which to buy two mules, two good milk cows, hogs, seed, fertilizer and living expenses for his family.

One of the first purchases he made was a pressure cooker for his wife so she could can enough food for the family. She did more than her share until every available shelf and closet in the house was filled with jars of vegetables and fruits, enough to carry a small army through the Winter.

Rapid strides toward economic independence and home ownership are also being shown by the negro families.

In 1937, Shamrock Watkins, 41, his wife, Charlotte 37, and their four boys and three girls were sharecroppers with a net worth of only $252. In 1938, when Shamrock came on the project he was loaned $500 for mules, tools, seed, fertilizer and subsistence. He repaid $387 and interest through April 25 this year. This was $187 more than was due.

Borrowed $170 For 1939

He increased his net worth in one year $452, to $704. He only needed to borrow $170 for 1939. About $60 of that went for equipment and the rest for his family and crop.

A net increase of more than $500 in one year was the record of Alvin Douglas, 48, and his wife, Mary, 47, and their two sons and two daughters. When Alvin came to the project in 1938 as a sharecropper, he was worth $137. He borrowed $360 that year, $235 to pay for a good team of mules and $125 for his family needs, feed and seed. Although only $170 was due this year, he has paid $188 and interest and has not yet sold his cotton.

White Points To the War; Farm Wisely, He Says

STATE COLLEGE, Miss., Oct. 1.—Anxious that Mississippi farmers pursue a safe course during wartimes, E. H. White, state extension director, yesterday advised farmers that "war at home and abroad has always been disturbing to agriculture and that wisdom is now calling upon farmers to farm wisely because of the conflict in Europe."

Contrary to common belief, he said, wars do not always increase consumption of cotton. Usually consumption is decreased until postwar adjustment begins, he added.

"When the first World War started in 1914, the United States was exporting annually about 8,500,000 bales of cotton," he said. "When it ended four years later only half of this amount was being exported. It was not until 1924, or 10 years after the war began, that American exports were back to the prewar level.

"Buy a Bale" Campaign

"History records that soon after the war began the cotton market was so paralyzed that a buy a bale movement was started for relief of cotton growers and business men of the South," he continued.

Mr. White explained that during the period, 1914-18, the United States changed from a debtor to a creditor Nation and that much of the boom conditions during and immediately following the war were caused by huge loans of American money at home and abroad.

With enough cotton in sight to supply the world's normal needs for two years, Mr. White can see no reason for any substantial change in the cotton production program now in operation. The same, he said, is true of other agricultural commodities.

"The agricultural adjustment program appears to have prepared this Nation for agricultural safety in war as in peace. If more of any commodity is needed American farmers are in position to produce it, and they are also in position to use the brakes when necessary to avoid recurrence of the miserable headache for agriculture that began shortly after the last World War and continued more than a decade, or until after the current adjustment program began in 1933," he said.

Foreigners Expand

Mr. White called attention to the fact that cotton production in foreign countries has expanded rapidly in recent years and that some of these new cotton areas are more accessible than Southern farmers to nations at war and needing cotton.

In most nations, he explained, nationalism has been rampant

since the World War. An immediate objective in each case has been to make the nation self-sufficient by producing all of the products needed during both peace and war. Here in the United States nationalism has become so strong that most of the states have developed a strong case of stateism, Mr. White commented.

With this as an incentive for individuals, he recommended that each farmer put his farm on a self-sustaining basis by producing all he can of his needs and then adding feed crops, pastures, and livestocks to cotton. The farmer who does this, he insisted, will be doing good farming under any condition in which he or his country may be found.

Livestock Production Gains In Tennessee

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 1.—Despite belief by many that Tennessee's farm income is derived mainly from crops, livestock production has become a vital part of agriculture in the state, according to a study made by a University of Tennessee graduate student who has found livestock products contributed 40.6 per cent to the state's 1937 farm cash income.

The study was made by Dale P. Cleveland, who received his master's degree last week. A student in the Department of Agricultural Economics, he prepared his thesis on "Economics of Livestock Production in Tennessee."

"Of the total cash income from Tennessee farms, amounting to $144,865,000 in 1938, crops contributed 53.6 per cent, or $77,608,000. Benefit payments amounted to $8,392,000, or 5.8 per cent. The remaining 40.6 or $58,865,000, was derived from livestock and livestock products," Mr. Cleveland said.

The total number of livestock on Tennessee farms has changed but little from 1867 to 1937, though there has been a marked increase in the number of milk cows and a decrease in the number of swine and sheep, continued Mr. Cleveland.

"Dairying leads in importance among the livestock enterprises, contributing $12,308,000, or 30.3 per cent of the total cash income from livestock and its products. Cattle and calves rank second with 23.9 per cent. Poultry made up 20.9 per cent, of which 13.7 is contributed by eggs and 7.2 per cent by the sale of chickens. Hogs contributed 16.9 per cent. Sheep and lambs, important in some areas of the state, contributed 3.5 per cent, and wool, .9 per cent. Horses and mules made up 3.6 per cent, mules contributing nearly the entire amount."

Shelby Imports Lime

Lime, all but ignored by Shelby County farmers until three years ago, is being spread on hundreds of acres this year. Eleven train loads of lime have been delivered or ordered so far this season, Leonard J. Kerr, agricultural agent, said yesterday.

Five or six cars a year were all that came into the county as late as 1936. In 1937, the county used 26 cars, and last year 54, but this year it has jumped to 274 cars.

Others will be ordered, because the Federal farm program which makes the purchase of lime attractive is still in effect. Until Oct. 31 farmers may qualify for maximum soil building payments, and use of lime is one of the easiest methods of increasing payments.

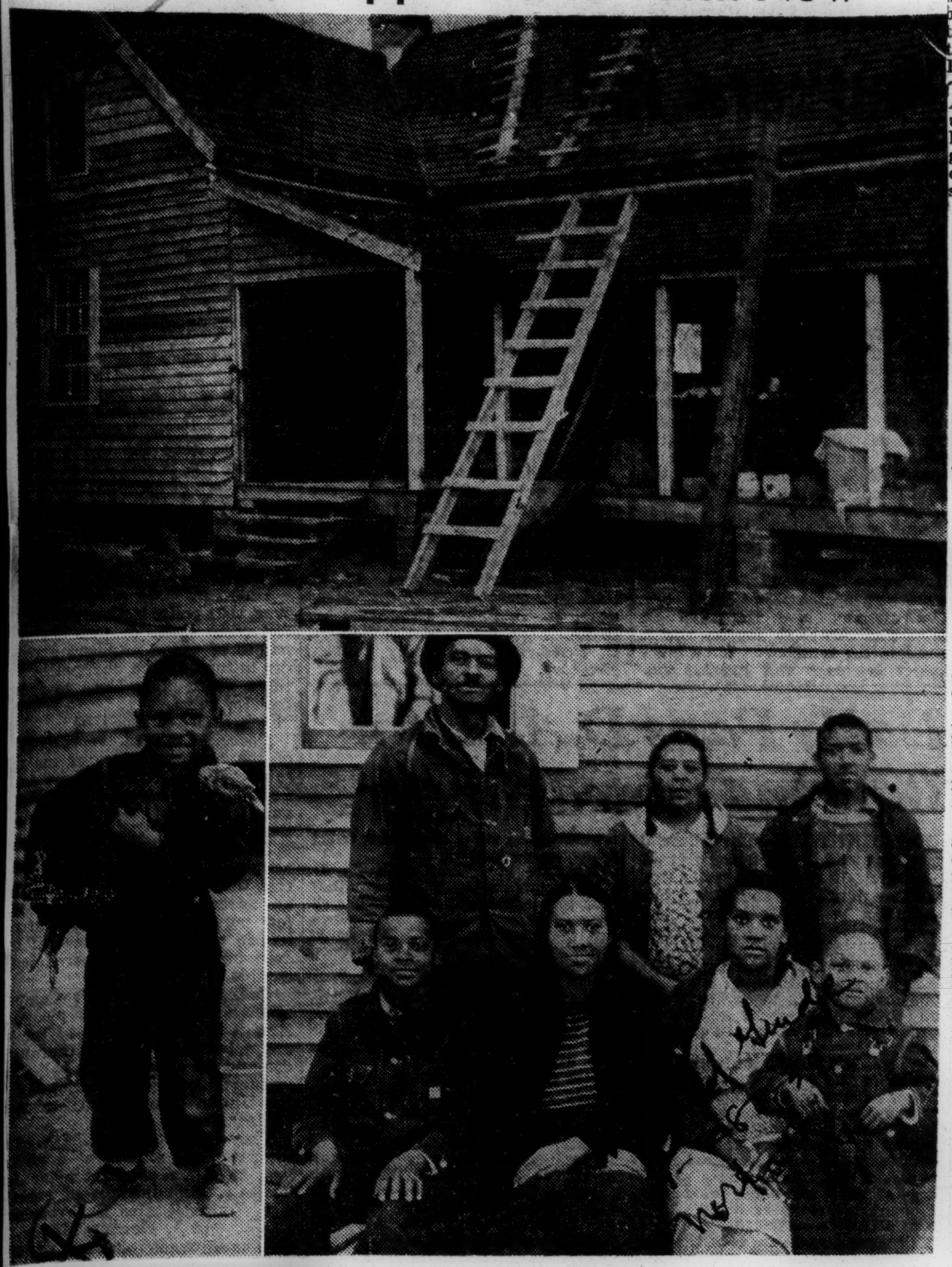
De Soto County Breeder Wins Recognition

HORN LAKE, Miss., Oct. 1.—J. T. Buntin, De Soto County Guernsey breeder, has just won national recognition of his purebred Guernsey bull, Gayoso Southern King.

This bull, sire of five cows which have made creditable official records, has been entered in the Advanced Register of the American Guernsey Cattle Club, and will be known hereafter as an advanced registered sire. His five daughters which have completed official records are Princess of Douglas Manor, Coredlia of Douglas Manor, Barbara of Douglas Manor, Norwood Beatrice's Polly and Gayoso Southern's Ina.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
IMPROVEMENT OF

Ex-Sharecropper Owns Farm Now



Sidney Willis is a farm owner now. For the past 24 years, he has been a tenant farmer on a plantation near Washington, Ga. and getting nowhere fast. But the FSA Farm Tenant loan which he secured under the Bankhead-Jones Act helped him to remedy that situation. Now he has 175 acres of land to till and what he makes goes in his pocket. No more sharecropping for him. Note the happy smiles.

The top photo shows Mr. Willis' home which is being repaired. At bottom, left, is his little son holding a nice, fat turkey. At bottom, right, is Mr. Willis' family of six. They have plenty of canned meats, and vegetables, feed for stick, good dairy cows and poultry.

Three Wo
In Texas O

THOMPSON, Texas— (ANP)— Three women, a mother and two daughters, are carrying on a farming operation here in Fort Benn County which ranks with big business and they are accomplishing the task with rare success. Mrs. Y. U. Jones, Miss Breatrice M. Jones and Miss Willa Jones direct and manage the operation of a farm comprising 4,800 acres.

When Y. U. Jones, widely known planter and cattleman, died here a few years ago, tnere was some apprehension among his friends as to the future of the large estate he had built up.

Farming and the cattle business are two industries which must be closely watched and skillfully managed to produce profitable results. Events have proven that the fears of friends were groundless. Mr. Jones had trained his daughter, Beatrice, carefully as his secretary and with the aid of her sister and astute mother, their operations have been increased over what they were when Mr. Jones lived.

The Jones family's plantation consists of 1,700 acres which is owned outright. On this land this year they planted 300 acres to cotton on which they made 150 bales. Five hundred acres were planted in clover crops, soil building legumes required under the government conservation program. Their check from the government alone under the payment for cotton subsidy was $3,000. Their 21 tenant families received $1,000 as their subsidy share. The Joneses received an additional $800 from the government for their soil conservation planting.

SUB-LETS LAND

Miss Beatrice Jones explained that they rented 3,100 acres for pasture purposes upon which they feed 500 cattle. They sell three carloads each year of calves and old cows, but through a lucky stroke she was able to rent one third of her rented acreage to a rice grower, the rice farm rental covering the entire cost of her pasturage, making the cattle grazing a clear profit. She rents another 100 acres to a white farmer at an additional profit.

Most of the 21 tenants on the Jones plantation this year are Mexicans, although formerly they were all colored. Seven of these are sharecroppers, working on halves and the others are tenants who own their own equipment and furnish their own upkeep

SIMPLE METHODS

"What we have been able to do is not so wonderful," said Beatrice Jones. "We have used simple, straightforward business methods and have tried to apply common sense to our operations. The governmental programs of the AAA have proven a great boon to us. Without their aid we would have been compelled to find new crops to plant. The governmental acreage reduction was rather severe, however, on our tenants. We would prefer they had larger tracts to farm."

"These holdings and our opportunity for service are the result of the great wisdom and ability of Mr. Jones," said the mother. "He made this farm, buying one tract after another until he had assembled the whole. He was a contractor in his early days, manufacturing ties for the railroad company. He saved his money; invested it wisely, and it is our purpose to carry on in the same spirit."

The family is well known socially throughout the country. Both daughters are graduates of Wiley College and Beatrice is an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Miss Willa Jones is the former wife of Atty. Bob Booker of Little Rock, Ark. They have one son who has been named Y. U. Jones 2d. He is attending high school in Houston, but since he is heir to the estate Mrs. Jones wishes him to be trained in practical agriculture and is planning after a year's work on the farm, to send him to Tuskegee to finish his education.

Texas Women Manage Big 4800-Acre Farm After Death of Industrious Negro

Five Hundred Cattle Fed Annually on Property; Tenants Mostly Mexicans; One White Renter

Sells $30,000 Oil Lease

THOMPSON, Texas.—(ANP)—Three women, a mother and two daughters, are carrying on a farming operation here in Fort Benn County which certainly ranks with big business and they are accomplishing the task with rare success. Mrs. Y. U. Jones, Miss Beatrice M. Jones and Miss Willa Jones direct and manage the operation of a farm comprising 4,800 acres.

When Y. U. Jones, widely known planter and cattleman, died here a few years ago, there was some apprehension among his friends as to the future of the large estate he had built up. Farming and the cattle business are two industries which must be closely watched and skillfully managed to produce profitable results. Events have proven that the fears of friends were groundless. Mr. Jones had trained his daughter, Beatrice, carefully as his secretary and with the aid of her sister and astute mother, their operations have been increased over what they were when Mr. Jones lived.

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Most of the 21 tenants on the Jones plantation this year are Mexicans, although formerly they were all colored. Seven of these are sharecroppers, working on halves and the others are tenants who own their own equipment and furnish their own upkeep thereby paying one-third and one-fourth of their crop for rental.

Although oil wells are producing all about them and they have received $30,000 over a period of time for leases on their lands their holdings have not as yet been drilled.

Their home is a lovely mansion-like structure built by their father Beautifully furnished, with every modern convenience, an electric range, natural gas, gorgeous dining appointments, needle point chairs and rare dishes, the home reminds one of an historic plantation dwelling.

Hospitable and gracious, the three greet and entertain their friends, colored and white, with a gentility which smacks of true aristocracy.

"What we have been able to do is not so wonderful," said Beatrice Jones. "We have used simple, straightforward business methods and have tried to apply common sense to our operations. The governmental programs of the AAA have proven a great boon to us. Without their aid we would have been compelled to find new crops to plant. The government acreage reduction has been rather severe, however, on our tenants. We would prefer they had larger tracts to farm."

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Variety In Crops Is Seen As Big Asset

PRAIRIE VIEW—(ANP)—Twenty-five per cent of the 76,000 Texas Negro farm families own their farm stated Jack Shelton, vice extension director and state agent from College Station in addressing the 2,500 Negro delegates from 53 counties who are here attending the 32nd annual farmers congress and short course.

Both adults and 4-H club members participated in judging contests, instrumental courses and demonstrations, objectively directed toward vitalizing the congress motto: "More Food on Texas Farms."

In his address, Mr. Shelton described several Negro farms which he has recently visited and told his audience that the test of a good farmer is the amount of food and feed supplies which he has grown and stored for year round use on the farm and in the home.

EXPLAINS AAA

E. A. Miller, assistant to director Southern division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C., explained the new feature of the 1940 AAA program which provides payments for the family garden and in stressing the AAA benefit payments told the group that "you cannot have diversified farming until you have diversified thinking."

President W. R. Banks welcomed the visitors and stated that the greatest problem facing the Negro today." He commended the Negro home demonstration agents for their excellent service in teaching economical short-cuts in household management and praised the Negro mother for her ability to "stretch her meager income in order to feed and clothe her children."

This year's exhibit included, from the men, hams, shoulders, pecans and syrup. Reports showed 84 syrup mills owned and operated in the state by Negro farmers and last year's production was 164,780 gallons of sorgo syrup and 14,767 gallons of cane syrup.

PECAN PROSPERITY

In the pecan industry Negro farm agents instructed farmers to approve 3,900 pecan trees and in meat production 1,110,000 pounds of meat were cured and smoked. This was in contrast to the record seven years ago when the meat projects were started and the farmers only cured 26,000 pounds.

William S. Hart, 18-year-old 4-H club boy from Bay City, was awarded a gold medal and $25 in cash for all round 4-H club work. From his cotton, corn pigs and jersey cows, Hart earned last year a net profit of $443.08 and has saved enough to enter the freshman class at Prairie View college next month.

Among the demonstrations carried on for men and boys were: sub-irrigated gardens, better production and uses of field crops, making and repairing farm implements, sanitation and feeds for live stock and poultry and concrete work. These demonstrations were under the direction of John H. Williams and H. S. Estelle, district agents.

USE MILO MAIZE

One of the unusual demonstrations for women was the use of milo maize for breadmaking. The maize was ground with an inexpensive hand mill and following a tested recipe delicious muffins were made and served. Other demonstrations for women included pickle making, canning and bottoming chairs, food preparation and needle work. These demonstrations were under the direction of Mrs. I. W. Rowan and Mrs. J. O. A. Conner, district home agents.

C. H. Waller, state extension leader, who is in charge of the congress reports that over $2,500 has been jointly raised by Texas Negro Farmers Council of Agriculture and the Texas Negro Home Demonstration council for the purpose of erecting a model summer camp for Negro 4-H club boys and girls which will be located near the Prairie View campus.

One-Fourth Texas Negroes Own Farm Land Declares Extension Agent in Address

Congress Delegates Told that Food and Feed Supplies Should Be Grown and Stored

New Type Bread Made From Milo Maize

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In his address, Mr. Shelton described several Negro farms which he has recently visited and told his audience that the test of a good farmer is the amount of food and feed supplies which he has grown and stored for year round use on the farm and in the home.

E. A. Miller, assistant to director, Southern division, Agricultural Adjustment administration, Washington, D. C., explained the new feature of the 1940 AAA program which provides payments for the family garden and in stressing the AAA benefit payments told the group that "you cannot have diversified farming until you have diversified thinking."

President W. R. Banks welcomed the visitors and stated that "the need for adequate income is the greatest problem facing the Negro today." He commended the Negro home demonstration agents for their excellent service in teaching economical short-cuts in household management and praised the Negro mother for her ability to "stretch her meager income in order to feed and clothe her children."

This year's exhibit included, from the men, hams, shoulders, pecans and syrup. Reports showed 84 syrup mills owned and operated in the state by Negro farmers and last year's production was 164,780 gallons of sorgo syrup and 14,767 gallons of cane syrup.

In the pecan industry Negro farm agents instructed farmers to approve 3,900 pecan trees and in meat production 1,110,000 pounds of meat were cured and smoked. This was in contrast to the record seven years ago when the meat projects were started and the farmers only cured 26,000 pounds.

William S. Hart, 18-year-old 4-H club boy from Bay City, was awarded a gold medal and $25 in cash for all round 4-H club work. From his cotton, corn, pigs and jersey cows. Hart earned last year a net profit of $443.08 and has saved enough to enter the freshman class at Prairie View college next month.

Among the demonstrations carried on for men and boys were: sub-irrigated gardens, better production and uses of field crops, making and repairing farm implements, sanitation and feeds for livestock and poultry, and concrete work. These demonstrations were under the direction of John H. Williams and H. S. Estelle, district agents.

One of the unusual demonstrations for women was the use of milo maize for bread making. The maize was ground with an inexpensive hand mill and following a tested recipe delicious muffins were made and served. Other demonstrations for women included pickle making, canning, bottoming chairs, food preparation and needle work. These demonstrations were under the direction of Mrs. I. W. Rowan and Mrs. J. O. A. Conner, district home agents.

C. H. Waller, state extension leader, who is in charge of the congress reports that over $2.500 has been jointly raised by Texas Negro Farmers Council of Agriculture and the Texas Negro Home Demonstration council for the purpose of erecting a model summer camp for Negro 4-H club boys and girls which will be located near the Prairie View compus.

SHARECROPPERS BILL UNDER FIRE

But Advocates Press Plan For Selling Them State Land At Low Price

By United Press.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 6.—Administration forces in the Arkansas House prepared today to fight for passage of a Senate-approved bill designed to settle the state's poverty-stricken sharecroppers on state-owned land.

The bill, declared by its sponsors to be a "second emancipation" which would free tenants and sharecroppers from virtual serfdom, would allow them to purchase land taken over by the state for nonpayment of taxes.

Farm families would be allowed to purchase the farms on long-range terms and the ultimate cost, sponsors said, would be about 10 per cent of the price which tenants have to pay to be resettled under the present set-up of the Farm Security Administration. The FSA which promised financial assistance to the proposed plan.

Originators of the idea say that approximately one-sixteenth of the state's farmland, now idle, had been reverted to the land office for tax delinquence and could be used advantageously for resettlement purposes. They reported that lumber interests, from time to time had purchased large tracts from the state, stripped them of timber and allowed them to go back to the state again by refusing to pay taxes on property worthless to them.

COTTON PICKERS STRIKE IS CAUSE

Henry and Dan Johnson and Former's Daughter-In-Law Victims of Law Framed to Halt KKK Terror.

LITTLE ROCK, Mar. 23—(ANP) — A state statute against night riding, aimed originally at such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, will result in jail sentences of one year each against three Negroes, Henry and Dan Johnson and Henry's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Dollie B. Johnson, in connection with their activities during the cotton pickers' strike last fall called by the Southern Tenant Farmers' union, the state supreme court decided Monday.

The three were convicted of putting written notices on plantation gates urging cotton pickers to strike for $1 per hundred pounds instead of the 40 to 85 cents they were then getting. Added was the scribbled wording, "stay out of the fields if you don't want to get into trouble." Authorities said this statement conveyed a threat bringing it within the limits of the night riding statute.

The defense said the statute was illegal since it contravened the federal constitution by abridging freedom of speech, the right of peaceable assembly and a guarantee of equal protection to all under the law. The supreme court held that the strike notices themselves were not a violation of the law, and the Johnsons had a right to strike and urge others to join them, but "did not have the right to intimidate and prevent others from working for the wage offered if the others wished to do so."

FARMERS LEARN SELF AID FROM WPA TEACHERS

Arkansas Administration Proves Boon To Share Croppers Of State

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 22—Under the supervision of McClinton Nunn, benefits of the Work Projects Administration are reaching the tenant farmers and sharecroppers in the plantation regions of this state, bringing aid that is both educational and practical to many Race families.

Operating under the Division of Professional and Service projects, 20 highly qualified Race teachers, both men and women, are teaching these agricultural workers to improve their own conditions as far as possible.

The teachers under Mr. Nunn's supervision teach such practical lessons as better health, thrift, citizenship, gardening, food values, sanitation and a higher family morale among their pupils.

Meanwhile the campaign to reduce illiteracy among citizens of both races remains an important part of the WPA Education program.

In cooperation with various federal, state and county agencies, the teachers have conducted clinics for the detection and treatment of tuberculosis and for immunization against smallpox, typhoid and diphtheria. Operations for such treatment were not readily available to members of the Race of the state until the WPA started its adult education classes.

Enrollees in these classes have been taught to construct sanitary privies to replace old outhouses, which were chiefly responsible for typhoid epidemics among the population and to make screens for their doors and windows as an aid to the prevention of diseases carried by flies and mosquitoes.

Instruction has been given in simple handicraft work such as the making and mending of brooms, the making and repairing of chairs, and various other household and kitchen utensils. They also are taugnt thrift in homemaking through renovating garments and weaving rugs and other articles from discarded scraps.

Heretofore the larders of these people have been woefully empty during the winter months but thanks to WPA teachers, canning has been extensively taught and as a result, plentiful supplies of canned fruits, vegetables and meats are on hand for the coming months.

Such canning activities have assured these families a better-balanced diet than they have ever known before.

Mr. Nunn, under whose handling the program is bringing such beneficial results, was born in a rural community in St. Francis county, Ark. He attended the rural schools in that county and completed his college work at Arkansas Baptist college in Little Rock. Following that, he attended Temple university, Philadelphia, specializing in mathematics.

For the past three summers Mr Nunn has attended Fisk university Nashville, Tenn. specializing in rural school supervision, rural sociology and science.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
LABOR CONDITIONS

CALIFORNIA

Meet Cotton Pickers' Demand With Part of U. S. Subsidy, Strikers Say

Daily Worker p. 1, col. 5-7

California Strikers Ask Wage of $1.25 a Hundred Pounds—Report on Parley With Gov. Olson

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

BAKERSFIELD, Nov. 4.—The story of a cotton strikers' interview with Governor Culbert L. Olson was told by Wyman Hicks young strike yeader, here today. Recently returned from Los Angeles, Hicks reported that the growers had informed the governor "wages should be higher than eighty cents a hundred, but we just can't afford to pay it."

It was pointed out that under the government subsidy the growers are receiving approximately $18 a bale in government money.

"In other words," said one strike leader, "if the growers were to pay $1.25 a hundred, the government would still be paying them considerably more in subsidy than their total labor cost."

OLSON'S ADVICE

The governor was informed that despite the constant invitations of the strikers the growers have obstinately refused to sit down and talk the situation over with the cotton pickers' chosen representatives.

Olson advised the strikers to bend all efforts to a long-range program of organization in the Valley by making friends with, and supporting the small growers who face the same problems and the common enemy with the field workers: the big landlords and public utility interests.

"We brought to Governor Olson's attention repeated instances of discriminatory action by the highway patrol. Strikers have affirmed that the officers searched pickets to make sure they were unarmed and then left while vigilantes bearing clubs and rubber hoses pummelled the workers," Hicks reported.

SPIRITS HIGH

"Spirit is still strong among the cotton pickers," said Hicks, "here's the kind of 'violence' the strikers are employing." He handed the words of a song across the table.

Fight for union recognition,
For for better pay,
Fight to better our condition
In the democratic way.
Eighty cents won't even feed us,
A dollar and a quarter would be fine,
Show the farmers that they need us,
JOIN THE PICKET LINE.

"They sing that to the tune of Workin' on the Railroad' . . . Yes, musical picketing is one of the methods we've used to help bring the pickets out of the fields," Hicks added.

AGRICULTURE- 1939
LABOR CONDITIONS

GENERAL

Farm Tenancy Intensifies South's Economic Problem

Find Sharecroppers Have Increased By 25 Per Cent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—Farm tenancy in the United States has increased from 25 percent of all farmers in 1880 to 42 percent in 1935 with an additional 10 percent part-renter group in the latter year. Negro farm tenants represent one-third of this class of labor in the rural South.

These are some of the facts made available by the President's National Resources Committee in a report on farm tenancy. This report and other studies undertaken by State Planning Boards are outlined in volume II of the Index of Research Projects issued by the Works Progress Administration.

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The total number of farm tenants within the race is 626,750, the FSA figures reveals. This represents 34.4 percent of all the 1,815,754 tenants in 14 states of the South. Negro sharecroppers in the same region total 381,197 or 52.2 percent of the 727, 780 total number of snorecroppers in the 14 states.

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COMMITTEE SUGGESTS

Recommendations made by the Committee include programs for federal and state action to provide land for tenants, help present land owner-operators retain their farms, discourage land speculation and ownership by non-farmers, improve lease contract and landlordtenant relationships and lighten the tax burden of farmers.

A closer view of the farm tenant situation is given in the report of the Mississippi State Planning Committee. "In 1930, 72.1 percent of all farm operators in Mississippi were tenants,' the WPA Index says in outlining the State Planning Committee's report. This was nearly 30 percent greater than the average for the United States, and represents 47 percent of the population in the State of Mississippi.

The WPA Index discloses that 71 percent of the tenant farms operated in Mississippi were by Negro tenants as compared with 29 per. cent for white tenants.

"Approximately 56 percent of all farms in the State were occupied by tenants who had been on the farm for less than five years," the WPA Index reports. "Of the owner-operated farms, 38.9 percent had been occupied by the same owner 15 years or more as compared with only 4 percent of the tenant-operated farms."

STUDY RELATIONSHIPS

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Through migration, Illinois gained a net increase of two hundred thousand Negroes in its population from 1900 to the last census, the WPA Index points out in an outline of a report of the Illinois State Planning Board. Meanwhile, there was a loss by migration of 20 Negroes to every one hundred whites in North Carolina from 1880 to the last census.

BIRTHS INCREASE

Births and deaths of white citizens remain practically stable in Mississippi between 1925 and 1934. Births among Negro citizens in the State increased from 23,298 in 1925 to 25,563 in 1934. Deaths within the race decreased from 14,086 to 12,436 in respective years.

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TENANTS GET CHANCE UNDER NEW FARM BILL

Lee Act Already Passed By Senate, Goes To House

LOANS TO BE INSURED

Farmers May Purchase Family Sized Acreages With Mortgages Backed 100 Per Cent By Federal Money

Special to The Commercial Appeal

WASHINGTON, July 8.—The opportunity for thousands of tenant farmers to own their own family-sized farms with their mortgages backed up by $350,000,000 in Federal insurance will be provided if the Farm Tenancy Bill, speedily approved by the Senate this week, gets a similar reception when it comes before the House, probably next week.

The way has been cleared for the measure. Assurance that it would be given early attention in the House was given by Representative Jones, (D., Tex.), chairman of the House Agricultural Committee, who said today he saw no need for further hearings by his committee before submission.

Carries Lee's Name

Senator Lee (D., Okla.), whose name the bill carries, described the measure as applying the system of Government insured loans, now used in home financing, to farm purchases.

In the case of the farm purchase loans, however, the Government would insure up to 100 per cent of the value of the property, where in the home financing program, it insures only up to 80 or 90 per cent of the value.

Under the Lee Bill, the local county committee of three farmers—as already set up and functioning under the Bankhead-Jones Act—would receive listings of farms for sale within the county, appraise those farms and investigate the tenants who are the prospective buyers. Preference would be given to those farmers who have the best prospects of succeeding as self-supporting farmers.

Insure To Full Value

Approved tenants would be brought together with owners of approved farms, the Government agreeing to insure each mortgage up to the full value placed on the farm by the committee. The owner of the land would get his money from a local banker, who would accept the Government insured mortgage, or he would get the insured mortgage. In either event, the Government would service the mortgage, making the collections.

The tenant-purchaser would have 40 years in which to pay off his debt, at not more than 3 per cent interest. Under certain conditions, he might be allowed a five-year moratorium on his payments. This would happen only if his default was through no fault of his own, such as drought or a series of crop failures.

Issue Debentures

However, in the event of foreclosures, the Government would issue debentures to cover the amounts of the mortgages foreclosed.

The funds used in the actual loans would be private, not Government money. The bill would limit the amount of insurance mortgages to $50,000,000 during the first year, $150,000,000 during the second year, and $350,000,000 in the third year of the program.

But even if the Lee Bill is not passed this session, the Government has provided other millions of dollars to aid the plight of the dirt farmer.

The Farm Security Administration already has nearly $200,000,000 to deal with the tenancy problem, and there may be twice that amount if the Roosevelt "spend-lend" program is adopted in full.

Loans For Implements

In the Agriculture Department Appropriations Act, $40,000,000 was allocated for further loans to tenants under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenancy Act. From this, money loans also are being made to tenants to buy farms, implements and stock. More than 8000 loans of this type already have been made.

In the Relief Act, another $143,000,000 was appropriated to FSA, plus $15,000,000 of last year's unexpended funds. Loans averaging from $300 to $500 are made to farmers who are on, or near, relief roll status, to get them started again. More than 100,000 of these loans have been made. Of the $158,000,000, $20,000,000 has been allocated for outright grants to farmers and tenant farmers, to give them a hand during times of acute distress.

Plight Of Sharecropper In South Told By Union Head

NEW YORK CITY—(A N P)—As a feature of National Sharecroppers' week whose observance has focused attention of the public on the plight of the Southern farm worker, J. R. Butler, president, Southern Tenant Farmers' Union (CIO affiliate), this week told of adverse conditions affecting "two million families, enslaved in chains by 'King Cotton,' absolute monarch of America's Southland." Said President Butler:

"During the past five years, more than 500,000 sharecroppers families, white and colored, have been displaced from their homes, forced into cities, there to begin futile competition with America's 10,000,000 unemployed. Or else they have accepted the horrible alternative of becoming farm laborers, paid by the day for working from sun-up to dark at a wage between 50c and $1.50.

"Their unhappy plight was put on the front pages of our daily newspapers for all America to see when nearly 400 families, comprising more than 1,500 men, women and children, were faced with evic- tion from their shacks and forced to accept jobs as day-laborers at 75c a day.

SCATTERED LIKE CATTLE

"Under the direction of state police, these families were forced into trucks and scattered into the swamps and backroads of the area, away from the public eye. Sharecropping was never an ideal method of making a living; it has been condemned for many years because of the poverty it has imposed and the peonage it has demanded. But our new status as day wage hands is far worse. Under sharecropping we could at least feed our families on fat-back and corn-pone; now we cannot feed them at all.

"The trend toward mechanization supplies landlords with a strong motive for getting rid of their tenants and sharecroppers and hiring back a fraction of them as farm hands. The AA cash benefits constitute another strong inducement to the landlord to shift from sharecropping to day labor.

More Than 500,000 Families Have Been Moved From Homes

Farm Tenancy Intensifies South's Economic Problem

Find Sharecroppers Have Increased By 25 Per Cent

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From one-fifth to one-fourth of the farm population live in extreme poverty, the WPA Index continues. The average income of tenants in the South is much lower than that of farm-operators. In some districts the annual income for tenants averages only $46 per person, the WPA Index says in digesting the report on the President's Committee on farm tenancy.

COMMITTEE SUGGESTS

Recommendations made by the Committee include programs for federal and state action to provide land for tenants, help present land owner-operators retain their farms, discourage land speculation and ownership by non-farmers, improve lease contract and landlord-tenant relationships and lighten the tax burden of farmers.

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AGRICULTURE- 1939
LABOR CONDITIONS

Negro Farmers Get Short End of Loans Under Jones-Bankhead Farm Tenant Act

Secure Inly 19 Per Cent in Area Where 35 Per Cent Of Population is Black

Local Committees Responsible For Difficulties

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Because of the wide disparity between loans made to white and colored farmers under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant act, the administrator of Farmers' Home Corporation board is taking steps to remedy the situation, it was disclosed this week.

Last year there were 265 loans made to Negroes out of a total of 1,433, in the Southern states. This is 19 per cent in an area in which 35 per cent of the tenants are Negroes. This year, 158 of the 1,215 loans have been to Negroes, which is 13 per cent—or a drop of 6 per cent as compared with last year. This slump has occurred despite an apparent determination to bring Negro loans in proportion to the percentage of Negro tenants.

While many colored farmers are convinced that regional directors have tried to carry out the Negro-white ratio of loans, as recommended by state committees they (the colored farmers) place the blame squarely on prejudiced county committees, whose members are all white local farmers. No political pressure can be brought through Democratic Southern congressmen. Suggested solution of the problem is the making of a definite allocation of funds by the Tenant Purchase division in the various counties for Negro loans, and a definite allocation of funds for white loans—with the understanding that funds allotted for Negro loans cannot be used for white loans.

Most common basis of recommendations by state committees was the ratio of white to colored tenants in designated counties. This was used in Regions 4 and 8. In Region 4, however, an alternative recommendation was made, namely the ratio of eligible white to colored applicants. In Region 5, the ratio of white to colored farm operators was used in Alabama and Georgia. The ratio of white to colored farm owners was used in South Carolina while the Florida committee recommended no colored loans because of the small number of loans and the small proportion of Negro farmers.

In Region 6, the Arkansas and Louisiana committees recommended that loans be made on the basis of white and colored farm population. Best record was made in Regions 5 and 8, where the colored quotas recommended were realized to the extent of about 80 and 90 per cent, respectively. C. B. Baldwin is assistant administrator of the Tenant Purchase division, and Paul V. Maris is director.

Plight Of Farm Tenants, Sharecroppers Intensify Economic Problem Of The South

Washington, D.C.—Farm tenancy in the United States has increased from 25 percent of all farmers in 1880 to 42 percent in 1935 with an additional 10 percent part-renter group in the latter year. Negro farm tenants represent one-third of this class of labor in the rural south.

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NEGROES REPRESENT ONE-THIRD OF FARM TENANCY IN SOUTH

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SAY GOVERNMENT HAS EXPLOITING LANDLORDS OF SOUTH ON THE RUIN

WASHINGTON, JJuly 27—(ANP)—The old Southern custom of exploiting Negro farmers, attempted nowadays under various disguises, has received a terrific setback, through the administration of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration of the Department of Agriculture, and because prosecution faced white planters and farmers who attempted to defraud their Negro tenants and sharecroppers, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been paid these defrauded Negro workers in the past year.

Taking a few examples at random, the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia, the following cases indicate the common practise on which the Department of Agriculture cracked down.

"In one county in Alabama, the landlords failed to show the interested tenants on practically all farms which were operated by tenant farmers since the beginning of the Cotton Acreage Reduction program in 1934. A representative spent several months last summer and fall in this county assisting the state and county authorities in reworking all applications and contracts in connection with the agricultural adjustment program from 1934 through 1937.

"It was found that 7,681 tenants share tenants and sharecroppers had not received their proportionate share of the payments which had been made to farms on which they operated. Of this number, 6,803 were Negroes.

$150,000 in One Alabama County

"Approximately $150,000 has been collected and distributed among the various interested tenants to whom these payments should have been made originally. It is possible that there will be cases of fraud, conspiracy or forgery, which will have to be handled by the office of the solicitor."

A county in Mississippi is the next example of what was done to the Negro sharecroppers and farmers.

"With the assistance of the county committee and the Mississippi state office, $11,272.19 was recovered from the landlord and paid to approximately 200 Negro tenants who should have received these payments when the contracts and applications were audited and paid but who had not been properly shown on these documents. After this investigation was completed this producer, who had been chairman of the county committee for several years, severed his connection with this committee."

White and Negro Renters Suffer

In Georgia, several cases were reported and gone into.

In this county, 31 complaints were investigated and it was found that 30 were irregular and involved a many landlords and 119 tenants, 8 per cent of whom were Negroes. $1,868.47 was collected and distributed to the tenants.

"In county number two, 95 cases were investigated and 80 found to be irregular, which involved a many landlords and 372 tenants, 8 per cent or more of whom were estimated to be Negroes; $3,261.2 was collected and distributed to the tenants.

"In county number three, six cases have been investigated; 62 tenants involved, of which three were white and 59 colored. The amount of cash distributed to these tenants was $2,520.60. There are still 2 complaints or tenants on file which involve 19 landlords.

"In county number four, 12 cases have been investigated, 86 tenants being involved, the majority of whom are Negroes. To date, there has been distributed to these tenants, $649.32 in comection with irregularities. There are 46 complaints on file to be investigated, involving 73 landlords.

"In county number five, conditions were unusually bad. The office has investigated the cases of 1,345 tenants, and approximately 8 per cent of these are Negroes. These irregularities are in connection with the same type of payments and involve money in the amount of $5,197.18. Investigations are still being carried on, and brought to a successful conclusion as rapidly as possible."

Interesting indeed is the manner in which these cases are brought to trial or hearing, and the moneys restored to the idividual for whom it was originally intended.

Says one of the chairmen of the committees: "You are familiar with my method of effecting these settlements, which was to notify landlords in advance to appear at the beat headquarters with their records and tenants, to meet the county committee and representatives from my office. In hundreds of cases, the landlord affected satisfactory settlements with their tenants before appearing at the beat headquarters.

Because of the irregularities which have been practised, officials say it is impossible to estimate the amount of money involved. It runs into figures which reach an astonishing total, yet at the same time the practises of the Southern farmer in the Negro sharecroppers are unheard of. However, through the cooperation of the agents of the department, it is hoped to wipe out every possible opportunity and are seeking to take an unfair advantage over them in the matter wherever there is evidence of fraud, or guilt is established, the department of payments made by the majority of these practises.

NEGROES REPRESENT ONE-THIRD OF FARM TENANCY IN SOUTH

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 8—Farm tenancy in the United States has increased from 25 percent of all farmers in 1880 to 42 percent in 1935 with an additional 10 percent part-renter group in the latter year. Negro farm tenants represent one-third of this class of labor in the rural South.

These are some of the facts made available by the President's National Resources Committee in a report on farm tenancy. This report and other studies undertaken by state planning boards are outlined in volume II of the Index of Research Projects issued by the Works Progress Administration.

Figures just compiled by Mrs. Constance Daniel of the Division of Information, Farm Security Administration, present a vivid picture of farm tenancy and sharecropping among Negro farm laborers in 14 southern states.

The total number of farm tenants within the race is 626,750, the FSA figures reveal. This represents 34.4 percent of all the 1,815,754 tenants in 14 states of the South. Negro sharecroppers in the same region total 381,197 or 52.2 percent of the 727,780 total number of sharecroppers in the 14 states.

From one-fifth to one-fourth of the farm population live in extreme poverty, the WPA Index continues. The average income of tenants in the South is much lower than that of farm operators. In some districts the annual income for tenants averages only $46 per person, the WPA Index says in digesting the report on the President's Committtee on farm tenancy.

Reccomendations made by the committee include programs for federal and state action to provide land for tenants, help present land owner-operators retain their farms, discourage land speculation and ownership by non-farmers, improve lease contract and landlord tenant relationships and lighten the tax burden of farmers.

A closer view of the farm tenant situation is given in the report of the Mississippi State Planning Committee. "In 1930, 72.1 percent of all farm operaors in Mississippi were tenants," the WPA Index says in outlining the state planning committee's report. This was nearly 30 percent greater than the average for the United States, and represents 47 percent of the population in the state of Mississippi.

The WPA Index discloses that 71 percent of the tenant farms operated in Mississippi were by Negro tenants as compared with 29 percent for white tenants.

"Approximately 56 percent of all farms in the state were occupied by tenants who had been on the farm for less than five years," the WPA Index reports. "Of the owner-operated farms, 38.9 percent had been occupied by the same owner 15 years or more as compared with only 4 percent of the tenant-operated farms."

The close relationship of farming to shifting populations is observed as the WPA Index outlines reports made by the state planning boards of Virginia, Illinois, North Carolina and Mississippi.

The loss by persons moving out of Virginia over an influx of new residents was 110,866 for Negroes and 97,265 for the white population. Decrease in the number of children under five years of age in the rural population per one thousand families 15 to 44 years of age in Virginia was from 637 to 574. The average monthly wage of farmers in Virginia was $34 without board. The annual wage per wage earner in the manufacturing industry was reported as $878.

Through migration, Illinois gained a net increase of two hundred thousand Negroes in its population from 1900 to the last census, the WPA Index points out in an outline of a report of the Illinois state planning board. Meanwhile, there was a loss of 20 Negroes to every one hundred whites in North Carolina from 1880 to the last census.

Births and deaths of white citizens remain practically stable in Mississippi between 1925 and 1934. Births among Negro citizens in the state increased from 23,298 in 1925 to 25,563 in 1934. Deaths within the race decreased from 14,086 to 12,436 in respective years.

The WPA Index Research Projects also lists and summarizes the situation of the Negro in farm management, population and migration, and general social problems.

Many of these research activities in urban and rural communities have been made possible by the assistance of the WPA Research Projects employing trained white-collar workers taken from relief rolls.

SAY GOVERNMENT HAS EXPLOITING LANDLORDS OF SOUTH ON THE RUN

WASHINGTON, JJuly 27—(ANP)—The old Southern custom of exploiting Negro farmers, attempted nowadays under various disguises, has received a terrific setback, through the administration of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration of the Department of Agriculture, and because prosecution faced white planters and farmers who attempted to defraud their Negro tenants and sharecroppers, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been paid these defrauded Negro workers in the past year.

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Because of the irregularities which have been practised, officials say it is impossible to estimate the amount of money involved. It runs into figures which reach an astonishing total, yet at the same time the practises of the Southern farmer-owner are being broken down as rapidly as possible, and wherever there is evidence of fraud, or guilt is established, the department is not slow in prosecuting and punishing the offenders.

It is thought that because many of the Negro sharecroppers are unable to read and write, white farmers are seeking to take an unfair advantage over them in the matter of payments made by the government. However, through the cooperation of the agents of the department, it is hoped to wipe out the majority of these practises.

WAGE-HOUR RULES ON FARMING ISSUED

Exemptions From Act Include All First Processing and Many Allied Steps

NUTS NOT 'FRESH FRUITS'

Long Bulletin Gives Detailed Interpretation of the Law's Application in Field

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (AP).—The Wage-Hour administration issued today its first comprehensive summary of the Wages and Hours law's application to agriculture.

The long interpretive bulletin, which covered virtually all farming and allied operations, concluded, among other things, that:

Persons engaged in the processing of fresh fruits and vegetables are exempt from provisions of the act, but processors of nuts are not.

Nuts may be fruit, the interpretation said, "but they are not fresh fruits even when newly picked."

Growers and handlers of tomatoes are exempt, but not canners of tomatoes.

The act exempts from both its wage and hour provisions some farming operations, lists others that are subject only to regulation of hours, and exempts seasonal work from the hour provision for fourteen weeks a year. It also exempts workers employed in the first processing of farm products. The act leaves it to the administrator, however, to decide whether many specific operations fall under the various general agricultural exemptions.

Other Conclusions

Some other conclusions in the bulletin were:

That the word "agriculture" as used in the act does not include the science and art of cultivating forests.

That employes of a farm operated experimentally in connection with a factory are exempt from the law.

That a secretary, bookkeeper, or night watchman employed by a farmer is not covered by the law.

The bulletin defined the raising of livestock as the "breeding, fattening, feeding and general care of cattle, sheep, horses, mules, jackasses or goats." It held, however, that persons employed in feeding livestock at the stockyards are not exempt.

Fur-bearing animals, the raising of which is exempt, included rabbits, silver foxes, minks, squirrels and muskrats.

The bulletin said that first processing meant the first change in the form of raw materials. As a consequence, it held that the manufacture of leather, baking of bread, manufacture of rope from hemp and the making of cigars, although each is a processing of materials, is not an exempted first processing.

Application to Dairying

Exemptions from hour provisions are granted to workers engaged in "the first processing" of milk, whey, skimmed milk or cream into dairy products, canning or packing perishable or seasonal fresh fruits or vegetables or in handling, slaughtering or dressing poultry or livestock.

Dairying was declared to include the work of "milking cows or goats, putting the milk into containers, cooling it and storing it on the farm."

"Furthermore," the bulletin said, "the legislative history of the act indicates that if the farmer and his employes engage in such operations as separating the cream from milk obtained from the farmer's own cows or goats, bottling such cream or milk or making butter and cheese out of such milk and cream those operations also fall within the exemption."

Listed as not exempt from the law were these canning operations: Making and canning vinegar, canning of baked beans, chili and tamales; repacking and recanning fruits and vegetables, producing wine from grape juice, storing of fruits and vegetables in a storage house.

Phases of the poultry industry not subject to exemptions under the law: Processing of poultry meat for packing and canning purposes, drying of eggs that have been broken and separated, breaking, separating, mixing and freezing of eggs.

PLIGHT OF 'CROPPERS TO BE PROBED BY FSA

Commercial Appeal
12-1-39
Memphis, Tenn.

Tenant Union Assured Aid If It Is Possible

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—(AP)—Plight of stranded sharecroppers in Southeast Missouri—principally Butler County—will be investigated, Dr. W. W. Alexander, Farm Security administrator, promised officials of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union today, and those found in need will be aided, if possible.

H. L. Mitchell of Memphis, president, and F. R. Betton, (negro) vice president of the union, told the administrator that approximately 15,000 former sharecroppers in Southeastern Missouri were without employment and in need.

Dr. Alexander said staffs of his agency in the "cotton boot" of Missouri would be enlarged and directed to help the needy find small tracts of land, where they could raise food crops to supplement whatever income they might be able to obtain as day laborers during the cotton growing season.

Meanwhile, the FSA would attempt, the administrator said, to finance the most needy through subsistence loans.

The tenant union officials said 84 displaced tenant families in a makeshift camp near Poplar Bluff, Mo., faced "death from starvation and exposure this Winter." He predicted that unless these families were given immediate assistance, demonstrations similar to those staged last January by displaced sharecroppers along the highways of Southeastern Missouri would be repeated this Winter.

Betton said a shift to machinery was causing displacement of thousands of tenants and sharecroppers from cotton plantations not only in Missouri but in other Southern states.

AGRICULTURE - 1939 GENERAL (RURAL YOUTH)
LABOR CONDITIONS

REFERENCE

W.P.A. STUDY FINDS RURAL
YOUTH HAS LOST OPPORTUNITIES FOR
SECURITY

NORFOLK JOURNAL AND GUIDE
1-14-39

ST.LOUIS ARGUS
2-17-39

See- Labor-Occupations, wages,etc.

La. Farmers' Union Fights Rent Rises; Rev. Whitfield Asks Cooperation of Races

NEW ORLEANS. — (ANP) — Mass meetings are being held by the Louisiana Farmers' union through the state to protest rent rises for the cotton tenant farmers and sharecroppers. Already landlords in Pointe Coupee, St. Landry and Avoyelel parishes have announced higher rents for 1940.

Men on the fourth share are being upped to the third. Cash rents are going up $1 to $3 an acre. Tenants now on the third have been instructed to supply their own fence and posts and wire, and to do additional labor next year.

All over the South tractors and greedy landlords are driving small farmers off their land, says Gordon McIntire, secretary of the union, who adds, "only where the farmers are organized do they have a weapon with which to fight back and protect their homes."

The union prevented rent increases on several large plantations in Pointe Coupee parish last year. They expect a broader battle field this winter, but a much larger and stronger union membership in all of the cotton parishes. Secretary McIntire declares. "The landlords are organized to blacklist any man who refuses to sign the higher contract, so that he will not have a chance to find a home in 1940. We must be organized, too."

Planters have said they would burn down the churches where union meetings were to be held, and they have threatened the life of McIntire and other union officials. "We know the landlords and robissary owners do not like this union," said Mr. McIntire, "because they want to control with a free hand. But we won't be bluffed or intimidated, and our meetings and cooperative activities will go ahead as scheduled. The union will not stop until we reach all of the dirt farmers in this state and help them achieve economic security."

R. M. Singletary, vice-president of the Louisiana Farmers' Protective union of strawberry growers, and the Rev. Owen W. Whitfield, outstanding Negro leader of Missouri tenant farmers, are guest speakers of the Farmers' union for this series of mass protest meetings.

Negro Leader Speaks

Rev. Whitfield last week said, "Now is the time for action. I am not down here with the Farmers' union as a paid speaker, but because I am interested in humanity that is starving in a land of plenty. It is not God's will that we starve. God said we should go forth and til the soil. It is man's common heritage to work.

"God said to go forth and till the soil and eat the bread thereof. The boss says to go to work and till the soil but not to eat the bread. It is time for us tenants and sharecroppers to rise up and say, 'No sir, boss, when we work, we're going to eat. If we starve, we'll starve sitting under a shade tree. Because it is not right that we workers should go hungry. Hunger is for loafers.' "

For ten years Rev. Whitfield was a preacher on a cotton plantation in Arkansas. "I preached about Jerusalem," he said. "I told my people to take their burdens to the Lord and leave them there. The boss said that was good preaching. But in 1937 when suffering became intense and we got no money for our crop, and no work from the WPA, and we found the relief offices closed to us, it was then I decided to take up our own burden.

"Then I, a baldheaded sharecropper, pulled off my sack and went to Washington. I didn't know what I was going to do and I didn't care, because I was hungry and sometimes when a man is hungry, he doesn't care about anything. But I made my arrival in Washington and I secured a hearing. It wasn't me they heard; it was all the farmers in my organization. Election was coming on and they were afraid not to hear. And when I came back to my people, I came back with authority to write relief orders for the needy myself."

Ray Whitfield stated that in 1938 he had a 55-acre farm with the Farm Security administration at LaFarge, Mo. This meant peace and security for him and for his large family for the first time in his life. But he couldn't stay there while his brothers were starving to death and being evicted from their homes. Once again he took up the fiaht in their behalf.

Since then he has been chased by the landowners, but they can't catch him. "It's easy to catch a man when he's alone, when there's nobody with him," said Rev. Whitfield. "But all of the sharecroppers and tenant farmers are behind me now. We are not driving at social equality, but we are driving at a higher standard f living for ourselves and for our young ones.

"I expect to spend all the days that I live building a union of farmers, fighting for the betterment of my people and for a higher standard of living for those that are coming on behind. I want to live so that anyone can look at my grave and say, "There lies the body of one who went down like a man, fighting to make America a better country to live in."

Rev. Whitfield urged the Negro and white farmers to unite against the plantation starvation system. He said that the landlords had been swapping them about continually, pitting the whites against the blacks, and the blacks against the whites, like pouring peas from one pan to another. "But the two races must combine their strength and pull together," declared Rev. Whitfield.

He said that the white workers wanted the Negroes alongside of them n the labor movement, instead of being yes-men who ran their wages down and endangered their jobs. "I appeal to you men to use your brains," cried Rev. Whitfield. "Can't you see you are going down because you are not organized?

"Organization means power Where there is power, there is life Where there is life, there is movement. And where there is movement, there is success. That is why you should join the Farmers' union today and move with your brothers to protect unjustified rent increases and to demand what you need and require and deserve.'

Landlords Raise Rents On Louisiana Tenant Farmers

Rents Hiked as Much as $10 Per Acre in Some Sections, Farmers' Union Officials Claim

New Orleans—(ANP)—Because tenant farmers in Louisiana cooperated with landlords in voting for the 1939 crop reduction, and because the tenants received sums insufficient to care for their needs in 1938, the Louisiana Farmers union charges many of the landlords with conspiracy because they are now saying that they must raise the rent of the tenants.

Realizing that they could not survive a crisis similar to the one they experienced in 1938, the cotton tenant farmers held hopes for increased prices through the AAA crop reduction program. It is reported that now landlords claim that tenants receive too much money from the government and that the rents will have to be raised in 1939.

Many planters claim that they have the approval of assistant parish agents, who represent the AAA. Specific instances given by the union are that in Avoyelles parish cash rent has been raised to as much as $10 per acre. In St. Landry parish where most of the share tenants are on the third, their managers and landlords have instructed them that they must furnish their own posts and staples.

In Pointe Coupee parish where the share rental has always been one-fourth, several large plantations have changed to one-third, and in many parishes half hands have been told that they would have to sign over all or part of their AAA checks.

It is fatal to move because moving costs $60 and the tenant is forced to sell his stock or give it up. In most cases the new place to which he moves does not have cotton acreage.

Machine Displacement Of Agricultural Labor

From the cane fields of Louisiana there comes the report that mechanical harvesting machines are appearing in the cane fields in numbers for the first time. These machines make the first substantial change in cane-cutting methods since the Jesuit priests brought sugar cane from Santo Domingo to Louisiana in 1751. It is estimated that 100,000 laborers will eventually be displaced as a result of this machine.

Introduction and spread of this machinery will be accompanied by some suffering and discontent. It has always been so. Technological advance means technological unemployment, and the truth finds some of its simplest illustrations in the field of agricultural production.

Farmers, like other men, have resisted inventions which were to their benefit. Even the first successful cast-iron plow made in America, in 1797, was rejected by New Jersey farmers under the theory that cast iron poisoned the land and stimulated the growth of weeds.

The National Resources Committee has cited many other instances of agricultural opposition to technological changes. When Jethro Tull sought to introduce mechanical planting of grain by drilling machines to displace sowing by hand, he was forced by threats of violence to leave many English farm villages. Whitney's cotton gin was not accepted readily, partly because of a belief that the gin injured the cotton fiber.

The destruction of threshing machines in this country and England when they first displaced threshers in the field was so widespread that knowledge of that opposition is common. Not so well known, although it comes down to more modern times, is the fact that many small-town bankers and business men for years refused to lend money on farm tractors on the ground that they were a menace to farmers. They argued not only that the farmers could not operate the machine profitably, but also that if the tractors were successful, the farmer would have too much leisure time.

Even the famous and for his time intelligent Amos Bronson Alcott would not allow his land to be manured because he considered it "a base and corrupting mode of forcing nature."

Such ideas as these all seem a bit stupid to us now. Perhaps a century hence, the present attitude toward mechanical cotton-pickers and cane-cutters will seem a bit queer. But the queerest thing of all will be the slowness with which man has found ways to adjust civilization to these improvements with the least degree of hardship upon the victims of the progress.

The mechanical cane-cutters are here to stay because they are practicable and feasible, because they effect a saving in labor, because they enable a greater return on investment, and because they represent progress. But the suffering their introduction will bring to individuals should be cushioned as much as possible by the government, because it is a matter of public policy, and by the owners of the cane plantations, because it is a humane duty.

5000 COTTON PICKERS FIND JOBS IN DELTA

Employment Service Has More Workers Available

Special to The Commercial Appeal

STONEVILLE, Miss., Sept. 27.—With cotton pickers still available in large numbers, the Mississippi Employment Service Greenville offices announce a total placement of approximately 5000 pickers during the first three weeks of September. Estimates place 50 per cent of the season's crop already out of the field, the peak having been reached during the past week.

Co-operating with the Employment Commission and the special state offices established in the Delta under the direction of Robert Hinds, Mississippi field supervisor, have been the Delta Council, the State Co-ordinating Council, Farm Bureaus and County Co-ordinating Councils. E. H. White, director of extension of the State Council, helped to bring the Employment Service in direct contact with the situations prevailing in the hill and coastal sections of the state, which this year harvested only a small per cent of their annual yield.

Grady Jolly, in charge of the Greenville unit of the Employment Service, has supervised the placement of from 500 to 1500 pickers each morning in the Washington County section.

It is the hope of the Delta Council and the Employment Service that wage labor can be supplied on a greater scale with each succeeding year. This was the initial season that the efforts of the commission were concentrated on supplying pickers in the state. Planters in the Delta area needing cotton pickers for the next few weeks should contact Mr. Jolly in Greenville.

REV. WHITFIELD AND HIS AIDES ANXIOUS FOR FEDERAL PROBE

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26 (Special)—The fight on the part of the sharecroppers of Southeastern Missouri to better their lot has only begun, according to leaders of the movement who came last week to confer with the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, Negro organizer who fled here for safety shortly after the break toward the highway camps started. Whitfield was warned by his followers that the "bosses" wanted him.

The leaders claim that county and state officials are working hand in hand with the big landowners in an effort to break up the demonstration and assert that they welcomed the investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation because they believed that it would reveal the true status of their plight to the country and that some definite action would be taken by the federal government to aid them.

DECIDED TIME WAS RIGHT FOR SHOWDOWN

The evicted sharecroppers and tenant farmers left their humble abodes on January 10, exactly 10 days after they had received notice that they would have to move. The magnitude of the movement surprised not only the leaders but the landowners. The latter believed that the sharecroppers would meet their demands for uncertain work at 75 cents per day for the simple reason that these people had no place to go during the cold winter weather.

Secretly organized at night, under Whitfields' personal direction, and with the assistance of a group of trusted white and colored lieutenants, the sharecroppers decided that the time was ripe for a showdown. Accordingly, it was decided that the group would move to the highways where their plight could be viewed by the entire world.

Then the sharecroppers were chased off the highways by the members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, an action which received the severe condemnation of the St. Louis Post Dispatch, local liberal white daily, which also asserted that, had an epidemic boomed certain that state health officials should have handled the members of the group in a medical manner.

GOVERNMENT TENTS MAY BE SENT TO HOMELESS

One of the latest moves has been on the part of the sheriff and prosecuting attorney of New Madrid county to force some 500 homeless croppers off the damp, marshy spillway county owned plot to which the state highway officers had moved them. New Madrid officers claim that surrounding landowners objected to the presence of the concentration camp but reports are current that these officials overheard telephonic conversations to Washington in which orders were given that government tents should be shipped to New Madrid for these people.

More than 1,000 demonstrators, after several days of suffering along the highways, were forced back to the cabins and shacks from which they were evicted or dropped along the road on less travelled highways. Many protested that they didn't want to go back where they came from as their presence was not wanted and they would not be rehired.

"It is against the unwritten law for Negroes or poor white folks to dispute the word of the police," one of the refugees told Courier representatives, "the landowners and bosses work in connection with the officers J. V. Conrad, the prosecuting attorney of New Madrid county, is one of the big planters.

"They claim that only a few eviction notices were given and that only one or two cases of eviction were on file at the courthouse. That is as they would have it. No notices were given on January first other than verbal notices. Those notices were sufficient. All the boss had to do was to bring the sheriff or a deputy point out the man, and say that he had told him to move. That was all."

LATEST SCHEME OF LANDOWNERS 'VICIOUS'

The sharecropping system, which the landowners are seeking to replace with a day labor plan in order that they might take advantage of all of the federal subsidy checks, is a vicious one. In fact, residents of seven Southeastern Missouri counties are in virtual slavery.

Arrangements for living must be made on the place of a large land owner. The owner agrees to stand for so much food and other necessities purchased from a landowner-owned store, often a store owned by the landowner himself or one of his friends, while the sharecropper is "making a crop."

The croppers must pay whatever the store keeper charges and there are seldom any arguments as it is "against the unwritten law for Negroes or poor white folks to dispute the word of the merchants." The boss, as a rule, when the crops are in , sees, first of all, that the merchant (often himself) gets paid in full. Many times, the sharecroppers are so deeply in debt when a crop is made that they are encouraged to spend a little for the children's "Christmas" and then permitted to begin another year, still in debt to the boss.

HAD TO COME INTO ST. LOUIS BY BACK DOOR

Now, many of the landowners claim, they don't want to take these people back on their farms. This, however is being done as disclosed by a group of men who came to St. Louis from Dorena, Mo.

"We had to come into St. Louis by the back door," W. M. Fisher, white ex-service man commented, "we left our families there and we hope to slip back in and move them. Where, we don't know."

Fisher is head of the group near Dorena and has organized a large group of white and colored sharecroppers. He said that his organization was composed of some 200 families, nearly 80 per cent of them colored. Fisher also told of how his fellow croppers were mistreated and of the bitterness that had for him and that *——— Whitfield for organizing the croppers.

Two of Fisher's colored companions, Abraham Holman and Robert Bailey, asserted that they had been taken by the state highway patrol officers back to the cabin from which Holman had been evicted and that they left when the boss appeared and ordered them to be gone when he came back. Neither man knows what fate was in store for their families but they hoped and believed that the women and children would fare better than they at the hands of "the boss" with a loaded gun.

They returned to the section with H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenants Union, who also came here for a conference with Whitfield.

Whitfield spoke Sunday, January 22, at a largely attended mass meeting which was staged in behalf of the sharecroppers.

Woe Of Sharecroppers In S.E. Mo. Laid Greatly To Farm Machine Invasion

Growth Of Mechanization Of Agriculture In Cotton Belt Traced To '29

By JOHN M. COLLINS

NEW MADRID, Mo., Jan. 28.—As agents of the Department of Justice begin investigating the recent "sit-down" strike of sharecroppers on highways in the Southeast and the Farm Security Administration rushes Federal aid to tenants alleged to be dispossessed the fact is becoming increasingly clear that not the operations of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration but the growth in mechanization of agriculture is fundamentally behind the plight of the families that have been tilling the earth to grow cotton on shares. This is true all through the Southland.

While applications for rehabilitation loans or Federal grants from tenant families in four counties of the Missouri "boot-heel" numbered 4,000 in the last month, it has been estimated officially that displacements in the entire South have been between 500,000 and 1,000,000 families.

Low prices of cotton, according to planters and other students of the situation, have brought about increased use of machinery in cotton culture. The operations of the Federal farm program simply have accelerated the movement, it is claimed.

Land Suited to Machines

The level and gently rolling land of Southeastern Missouri, the Mississippi and Arkansas River deltas, Southwestern Oklahoma and Texas lends itself to the use of tractors, two-row cultivators and even the radically new mechanical cotton picker. Mechanization of these farms began when cotton fell to the level of 5 cents a pound after the crash in 1929. It has continued apace as the individual acreage allotted for a farm under the AAA has contracted constantly. The purchase of tractors in those States has almost doubled in recent years and with them have been added the bigger cultivators and planters.

Where, according to a study by the research division of the Works Progress Administration, it required seventy hours of labor to produce an acre of cotton in the 1907-11 period, only fifty hours were necessary in the 1933-36 period. Costs of production thus have been reduced. An official study showed that it cost 12 cents net to produce a pound of lint cotton in the Piedmont section of the Atlantic Coastal States, where the old methods still are followed largely, while the net pound cost in Western Texas was only 8½ cents.

Planters expect that the mechanical cotton picker will be a factor to be reckoned with in the near future. The Rust Brothers of Memphis believe that they have solved the problem of cotton clogging between the bars of the stripper and that their salvage devices have eliminated virtually all losses of cotton on the ground.

Cost of Picking Compared

Where the machines have been tested under farm conditions, a government study shows, the cost of picking 100 pounds of cotton by machine is 11 cents; by hand, $1. These figures, however, do not take in the initial cost of the machine or the cost of depreciation, since the latter has not been determined.

To one who viewed the recent sharecropper "uprising" in this section, the plight of these people is pitiable. They insist that they have been removed from the crop-share status to that of day labor to make way for the machine and so cut production costs. As day laborers, they assert, they can earn only 75 cents to $1 a day up to 120 days a year; the rest of the time they must shift for themselves. Where the tenants can be displaced legally, the landowner obtains all the benefit payments of the AAA and by hiring labor only in the peak cropping seasons he saves himself the "furnish" of his croppers in the Winter and Spring.

The landowners, however, are caught in the toils of the same economic development. They assert that with six or eight men working as day labor they can farm a 200 to 500 acre plantation much more cheaply and easily than with from fifty to sixty tenants using work stock. Only with such methods, the plantation operators say, can they maintain production.

J. B. A. Johnson, owner of a 900-acre plantation in Jefferson County, Ark., for instance, says that by "streamlining" his cotton plantation with modern farm machinery last year he saved several thousand dollars. He said he plowed the land and painted the cotton with a cultivator and tractor, thinned it with a cotton-chopping machine and picked it with a mechanical picker.

"Machinery will be the salvation of the Southern planter," Mr. Johnson declared. "It solves the problem of undependable hand labor. It also provides a less expensive means of producing cotton, which is necessary if the South is to prosper.

"My land was plowed and prepared with a tractor at about one-half the cost of using mules. An even greater saving was obtained by chopping with a machine. The cotton was gathered at a saving of from $8 to $10 a bale. Just as an experiment, I gathered thirty bales with the picker at a cost of $4 a bale. It would have cost me from $10 to $14 a bale to have gathered the staple by hand."

Wanderers Without Homes

What happens to the displaced tenants? Many of them are at present more or less homeless wanderers. Going into the towns, they find it difficult to get on the WPA, since they are classed as "agricultural labor." Hundreds of the families in Eastern Arkansas are reported to be drifting into the swamp lands and the cut-over wooded sections, where they are constructing rude cabins and are attempting to sell enough wood to keep themselves alive until the cropping season opens three months hence.

The Farm Security Administration, enjoined with the job of solving the problem, has an almost insurmountable task. It is attempting to make rehabilitation loans to likely prospects to set them up in farming in a small way, where land is available, but there is not nearly enough land to go around. To other families it is making outright grants which are reported to be $2 a person a month in this immediate section.

According to a member of the FSA staff, the philosophy of the FSA is toward the family-size farm operated with a minimum of out-side labor and going into mechanization only in a limited way.

Seek Solutions

The two general trends I speak of are, first, our so-called group farms, where clients of the FSA are established in cooperative corporation farm enterprises or are set up as tenants of the FSA on large contiguous tracts of land. The second general attack is in the form of our community and cooperative service program.

"The community and cooperative service idea is that of enabling groups of farm families, either formally organized or acting merely as informal groups, to pool their resources so as to buy and use services and equipment which they could not as individual families afford to own or operate economically. Notable among these are the groups formed for the purchase and use of pure-bred herd sires.

"Another type is that of joint use of heavier farm equipment such as combines, seed-cleaning equipment, sheep-dipping outfits or, in some cases, tractors. The idea even goes over into the home, with several families joining together in the use of a canning outfit, a butchering outfit or, in some cases, a washing machine.

Some students believe that a readjustment in the picture of what constitutes a farm—the land operated as a self-contained family unit, rather than as a commercial enterprise — eventually may be the solution.

Sharecroppers' Captain



WALTER THOMPSON

Who is leader of the group now housed in a church at Charleston.

Destitution Among Evicted Negro Sharecroppers Found Appalling By Lincoln Univ., Mo. Professor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The condition of the evicted Negro sharecroppers in Southeast Missouri is appalling, according to Lorenzo J. Greene, assistant professor of history at Lincoln University (Mo.), who has just returned from a second three-day visit to this section.

Taking food, money, and clothing to the croppers, which had been collected and donated by students of Lincoln University and citizens of the community, afforded Greene another opportunity of witnessing at first hand the desperate situation of these people.

In three camps, where more than two hundred and twenty-five people live, overcrowding, stark hunger and unsanitary conditions prevailed. Typical was the encampment in and about the Bethlehem Baptist Church, located about three miles from Charleston. Here, the speaker remarked, nine families, totalling thirty-six persons, of whom seventeen are children, exist in the most abject poverty, ragged, barefoot and hungry.

The little church had been turned into sleeping quarters. The interior beggared description. The floor was bare. In the center stood an iron stove. Beside it was a pan filled with ashes, which served as a spittoon. Chairs, lard cans, trunks, lamps, clocks, kettles, and slop jars littered the floor. On either side were two rows of bed, four in a row. On the pulpit were three more. Three families slept on the four beds on the left side while o nthe right four families. pillowcases were lacking and most of the blankets were badly in need of laundering. Partitions of blankets and bags, hung on strings, separated the beds. Privacy, therefore, was virtually impossible, as the leader of the group admitted. Three families, who had no beds, slept on the floor. In this fashion a single room nightly accommodated thirty-six people irrespective of age and sex.

In the yard, according to Greene, were four shacks made of wood, bagging, rags, tin and cardboard, which served as kitchens. In the first shack was a battered table, two broken-down chairs, a stove, cans, an ironing board, and a few pots and pans. No food was to be seen. The floor was bare and flies swarmed everywhere. This shack was used by Cato Kirkwood, his wife and eight children. Kirkwood was evicted on January 9, 1939, and showed Greene and three students who accompanied him, his eviction notice.

Upon entering another shack, the party was surprised to find a wooden floor. Inquiring of the owner Mrs. Emily McField, a middle aged woman, how this was possible, the visitors received the reply: "When we first came here, it was awful bad. It rained and snowed and we just couldn't do nothing so we just had to have a floor." Incidentally, Mrs. McField explained later that she was one of the first arrivals. While talking, she was busily engaged in raking wood ashes from a little stove.

Sanitation Bad

Sanitary conditions were bad. There was no water on the premises. It could only be obtained by going to a pump on an adjoining plantation about two hundred yards away. An open privy served both sexes. Flies were everywhere. Without disinfectant, nothing could be done to allay the stench arising from the open toilet, serving as a breeding place for flies and disease. All the croppers, related Mr. Greene, were badly in need of food. Hunger was apparent in the lean, gaunt faces of the men and the pinched cheeks of the women and children. Beans, hog snouts, and corn bread, when obtainable, furnished the main items of diet. Wild greens now were largely sought for as food. One woman said she had nothing to eat for several days. Others subsisted by catching fish in a nearby creek.

The quest for food was well illustrated by Mrs. Anna Kirkwood, an intelligent and witty cropper, who, when asked what she ate, replied: "We eat all the wild greens, and poke salad we can get and catch fish. We get them on Snow's Ditch, I've only missed one day from the ditch in the forty days since I've been here. I catch perch, carps, buffalo, and cat-fish." With that she smiled and continued eating a piece of fried fish, which she held in her hand.

Most pathetic of all were the children. Not only do they lack ordinary foods, but they cannot get such essentials as, cereals, mik and friut. Milk has been unobtainable; fruit is unthinkable in their present situation. Some families are entirely destitute. In such cases, those who are more fortunate, share with them.

Some of the children, Greene stated, already showed results of their privations. Several had colds; other eczema, and others had pronounced skin eruptions on the hands and neck. One child coughed with a rattling sound, while several showed marked signs of undernourishment by their sallow complexion and obvious underweight.

All of them needed clothing. Although it was cold, only three of the men had overcoats. Most of them wore overalls or odd coats and trousers. The women wore nondescript attire; few had stockings; some were barefoot. Most of the children were in ragged overalls or dresses. Several wore tattered sweaters; few had coats.

When asked about assistance, Greene was told that townspeople had given them about five dollars worth of food. A few had been given local relief orders of two dollars and a half a piece, which were exchangeable for food. "All got relief orders once," Rev. Robinson, a patriarchal-looking cropper told the visitor, "but then it was cut off. We were supposed to get three grant checks from the Federal Government, but the white folks even cut that off. I never did get nary one." Asked why, he replied, "Because Billy Love, a landlord, stopped it. He lives in Charleston."

To preserve order, the croppers organized and elected as their leader, a tall, thin, serious-visaged man, named Will Lee. Lee, according to Greene, was evicted because he would not sign over his share of the government payments for reduction of cotton acreage to the landlord. To date, there had been no disturbance or fights in the camp.

Into this situation Greene and three Lincoln University students—Adele James, Cynthia Bolt, and Ruth Page—went last Saturday, carrying a welcome contribution of about one hundred dollars in cash and a large amount of clothing. Money and clothing were distributed among this group and at the larger camp at Sweet Home Baptist Church. Here one hundred and forty-eight people were given aid in food, money and clothing. In each camp the children were given a crate of milk, fruit juice and oatmeal.

Too much praise cannot be given the students of Lincoln University who gave freely of money, clothing, and services to help sustain the croppers in their battle against exploitation a battle that is long from its end.

"The situation," concluded Mr. Greene, "is still serious. They are not only hungry, but virtually shelterless. Even now they have been asked by the deacons to quit the church. The reason given was that it is needed for church services. Where can they go They cannot return to the plantations. The landlords are unyielding and the gaunt, haggard, sharecroppers are still defiant. As one of them said 'We might as well starve doing nothing as starve working for nothing'."

Letters from Sharecroppers Reveal Tragedy, Suffering

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—The conditions under which sharecroppers in Southeastern Missouri worked, their systematic exploitation by the landlords, the causes for their eviction last January, and the sufferings which they have endured since that time, are graphically related in a series of letters writen by them to Lorenzo J. Greene, assistant professor of history of Lincoln university, Jefferson City.

Given to the public for the first time, they throw a lurid light upon one of the most distressing economic and social problems facing the American people today.

From Mary Pratt, a widowed mother of five children, came the following story:

"My name is Mary Pratt.

"My age is 34 years. I am not married. I am a widow. I have five children in my family. I worked on Mr. Jimmy Reeves place. I had eight (8) acres of cotton, no corn, I only had 12 chickens, no hogs, nor cows. I made 10 bales of cotton and I cleared only a little money. What little money I did clear, I bought winter clothes and food for the family.

"My reason for leaving is the boss man told me to move because he didn't want any sharecroppers, he was going to plant his farm in pasture, such as wheat, alfalfa, Lespediza, etc. He made me move in the hard part of the winter on January 11, 1939. The only government money that I have received is only two (2) grant checks. The amount was $22.

"I am a union lady. My life here at the camp has been very unsatisfactory because I only have a small amount of food to eat but now I am getting along pretty good. The most particular thing that I need is dresses, underclothes and food. and a few clothes for the children.

"The thing that I am fighting for is my right—and some where to live. I have no where to go and live but here in tents. I cook out of doors when the weather is good but when the weather is bad I cook in someone's tent. So this is my story."

Extremely informing is the letter written by Walter Johnson, leader of the sharecroppers at the Sweet Home Baptist church:

"Dear Sir:

"I am writing you in regards of my eviction from the farm. I was on Mr. O. A. Reeves farm about one and a half miles southwest of Deventer, Mo. Mr. O. A. Reeves sent a written notice to me at night about 9 o'clock by a deputy constable of Wyatt, Mo., in Mississippi county.

"The notice telling me to quit possession written January 3, 1939, to give possession by the fifteenth day of January, 1939. I felt it to be unlegal and I carry the notice to the State Attorney and ask him about it and he told me that he (Mr. Reeves) did not need to give me but 10 days and said that Mr. Reeves had give me plenty of time and that he would advise me to move that I have got 12 days and I should give Mr. Reeves his house and not have no trouble for a sharecropper did not hafter have but 10 days.

"So I begain to walk looking for a place and I could not fine no place and I had no money for Mr. Reeves had not settled with me and a deal of others. He also put our cotton in the Government loan and ask none of us anything about it and I begain to portest (protest) Mr. Reeves about my cotton.

"I made 9 bails of cotton and Mr. Reeves would not allow me to put my part of cotton in the Government loan so I could be entitle to father (further) Payments should cotton go up on Market.

"And also Mr. Reeves in 1938 tryed to get me to sign over my 1937 government Payment and because I would not do it he was very hard to get along with now. I made 2 crops of Cotton on Mr. O. A. Reeves Farm. One doning (during) 1937-38 I work 15 acerage of cotton in 1937, and when I received my government payment Mr. Reeves just turn in For me 5½ acerage of cotton When he should have turn in 15 acerage for me.

"I tryed to get consideration from Washington, D. C., from the Department of Agriculture. they defored (referred) my letter to Jefferson City Mo. and Jefferson City defored (referred) to Columbia, Mo. and they just continue to hold for The landlord said I could not get but $11.52 and I pick and gin 15 bails of cotton and my 1937 payment just come to $11.52 when they got thru (through). Now I has not yet got my 1938 Payments. now it is more hader to get what you make in this county after making it than it is to work and make it.

"Now Mr. O. A. Reeves also charge me $2.50 for garden aftir the crops was laid by and he also charge 15 cent per bail for to haul it to the gin and he should not have charged anything. The many landlords had come to an agreement they was to work the farms on a bases and that mean that the sharecroppers would not get but 3 bails of cotton out of 8 bails so all of the farmers begain to give they labor notice to move and you could not go to no other place and get no sharecrops other than on a Bases.

"Then moving taken place on about Jan. 9-10-11-12 and the Highway 62-61 begin to get busy and I and my group come to this Church sweet home. And have been here ever since that time. we came to this church and it begain to snow and sleet and rain...and it has been the only home for us up until now. Altho We have been threaten by the White Peoples of this County and we also have treated verry cool by our county laws, and now we are faceing a law suit. 3 of this group have all ready got summons to court the First Monday in June. They are trying to get us out of this church.

"I am unable as to no whate will be the result we are for I guess what evers come, we are here and guess This is where we will be until they sue us off this ground.

"So I shall close for tractors and over production have put a many farmers out of work and off the fam so they want we poor peoples to work for .75 cent and $1.00 per day and we just can't live at Those prices. So this being all."

Walter Johnson
Wyatt, Mo.

Bob Hollands, 59-year-old cropper with a wife and 12 children, tells how he was sumarily ordered to vacate the plantation of Earl Stallings, and relates the privations of himself and family in the sharecropper camp:

"My name is Bob Hollands.

"My age is 59 years old. I'm a married man, there are twelve (12) in family. The place that I lived on was Earl Stallings. We had twenty (20) acres of cotton, no corn, no hogs nor chickens. We made nineteen (19) bales of cotton.

"Mr. Stallings gave me a writen notice to move. The notice as follows:

'Wyatt, Mo.
Dec. 20, 1938.

From Earl Stallings
to Bob Hollins.

'You are here by notified that I Require you by the first day of Jan. 1939 to quit the Possession of the premises here in December as my sheacropper.' The land contains 20 acres.

EARL STALLINGS.

"I have received only two (2) Grants check from the government amounting to $30. I am a union member.

"While here at the camp I have been without food and clothing, but now I have a little to eat and a few clothes to wear. The thing that I need most is clothes for the baby and children and my wife need clothes.

"I am fighting to try to get my Right, and a place to live and farm. farming is all I know to make a livin."

BOB HOLLANDS.

One of the most touching stories of the entire exodus is the account given by 17-year-old Gladys Fields, who realistically describes her suffering since January 10:

"My name is Gladis Fields and I am 17th years old and me and my mother and Father move out on the hiway the 10th of January and have suffered from the time we come out until now. We have had a hard time every since we been out on the hiway. Some time nothing to eat and half nicket (naked) and treated like a Dog from white folks. We was Drove from the hiway and the state petrolems (patrolmen) move us in the Jail house yard. And they made us move from their and we move in a old colored man garden spot and the women he was renting from made us move from their and we move down to the school house and looking to hafter move from their pretty soon. we is hungry now and no way to get nothing to eat. in closing my letter But not my heart and still leaving me hungry and out Dorse." idrOrMtYlbr ETAOI ETA ET EE

The pathos and suffering inherent in these letters should arouse in the breast of everyone, white and black alike, a sincere and earnest desire to do everything possible to help alleviate the condition of these people.

MISSOURI'S EX-SHARECROPPERS

Whatever may be the whole truth about the evicted sharecroppers now camping on Missouri roadsides, it should be obvious that a thorough inquiry is in order and that immediate relief should be given to the roadside campers. A tragic situation exists that cannot be tolerated.

It is known that Missouri is not the first State in which tenants and sharecroppers have been dispossessed by landowners seeking to obtain maximum benefits under AAA. There have been reports in Alabama, for example, and some cases are known, that tenants and sharecroppers have been placed on a strictly labor basis so that benefit payments would go to landowners instead of to tenants.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch charges that the blame for the present situation "rests upon Secretary Wallace and his co-administrators of the crop control project for not having provided legal protection for these people. The AAA has failed to face up to the political danger of offending the landowners by safeguarding the interests of the sharecroppers. There is not much danger in offending the sharecroppers in the Cotton Belt, because these people usually don't vote."

The Post-Dispatch is undoubtedly technically correct in its charge, but the basic reasons for the unhappy condition now existing go much deeper. The tenant and sharecropper have seldom had protection of any kind. They have much more under the AAA than they have heretofore known. Nevertheless, their condition remains deplorable; will, in fact, always be deplorable while the present system exists.

Naturally the whole problem of absentee-ownership cannot be settled overnight. Neither can the farm problem itself. But the best attack upon such conditions as are now dramatically in focus in Missouri is by way of reducing the number of tenants and sharecroppers. Other countries have succeeded in virtually abolishing the system. With the end of tenancy will come the end of the bleak poverty and misery that from time to time grow so frightful as to demand the front page. The Missouri problem is another example of the evils of tenancy.

Sharecroppers Slow To Move Out Of Camps

Missouri State Police Begin Dispersal Of Crowds; No Violence

NEW MADRID, MO., Jan. 14.—(AP)—Southeast Missouri's bedraggled army of road-camping sharecroppers and their families gave way slowly and reluctantly today before the efforts of State highway patrolmen to end their dramatic protest against a low economic status.

Acting on orders of Dr. Harry Parker, State health commissioner, who said the situation constituted "a menace to public health," the patrol began breaking up the crude camps that have dotted the miles of highways in the "bootheel" cotton country since Tuesday.

The 1,300 men, women and children, who had endured inclement weather, lack of food and miserable living conditions in their make-shift highway hovels, complied stubbornly with the officers' command to "get packing in a hurry."

By nightfall only three of the 13 groups had been disbanded and it appeared the job of ending the demonstration would take another day or two. The patrol had hoped that once the first groups were broken up the others would leave voluntarily.

State police planned to work through the night moving the demonstrators to their former homes, if possible; otherwise to temporary camps.

There were no reports of violence or disorder.

However, at Memphis, H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, said he had been informed the Missouri police had escorted J. R. Butler, president of the CIO affiliate, and two organizers to the State line and had told them "to get out and stay out."

Earlier in the day, Capt. A. D. Sheppard, of the State Patrol, said Butler had conferred with him at Sikeston and had promised full cooperation in moving the sharecroppers back to their homes. He said Butler then left, presumably for Memphis.

In St. Louis, Owen H. Whitfield, negro minister and tenant on the government rehabilitation project at La Forge, Mo., declared the police "probably will have to use force" before they can clear the highways. Whitfield had urged the mass demonstration.

Told that the camps were ordered broken up as "a menace to public health," Whitfield said:

"Do you think those shacks my people have been living in are any healthier? If they are sent back to the conditions from which they fled the same situation inevitably will occur again."

Landowners have demanded a Federal investigation of the activities of Whitfield and of Hans Baasch, supervisor of the La Forge project. Baasch denied today he had any connection with the mass protest.

Robert K. Ryland, State director of the National Emergency Council, returning to St. Louis after making an inspection of the area, said he believed the demonstration was "fostered by subversive elements."

He said he had talked to "dozens" of negroes and all were waiting for Uncle Sam to give them a white house with a porch, a barn, well and a span of mules." None of those questioned, he said, had been evicted from their tenancies.

PLANTERS ASK INQUIRY AS TO SHARECROPPERS

Say 'Agitators' Led Missouri March—Rain Thins Camps

NEW MADRID, Mo., Jan 12 (AP).—Rain beat down tonight on sections of Southeastern Missouri, where 1,000 men, women and children were camped in the open in a demonstration which brought demands today from planters for a Federal investigation.

The rain reduced the ranks of the ragged army of farm workers and their families, gathered along U. S. Highways 60 and 61 since Tuesday in a mass protest against their economic condition.

Meeting at New Madrid, twenty-four planters demanded a "fair and impartial" inquiry, preferably by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, into the reasons for the demonstration.

A resolution, which they sent to State and Federal officials, contended that the mass march to the highways was "instigated by certain agitators who are telling the people the government will give theb forty acres of ground, tools and teams." It insisted that most of the refugees were transient cotton-pickers who were seeking government resettlement.

"More than 90 per cent of the demonstrators are not share-croppers and many are not even residents of Missouri," the resolution said.

The landowners urged an investigation of the activities of Hans Baasch, supervisor of the Farm Security Administration's resettlement project at La Forge, Mo., and Owen H. Whitfield, a Negro minister and tenant at La Forge. Mr. Baasch declined comment.

They Were Cheated Of AAA Benefits



The victims of greedy landowners, who evicted them at the end of the season to avoid sharing crop benefit payments under the AAA, these Missouri sharecroppers are shown as they camped along the highway at Siketon, Mo., in protest against the growing movement to evict sharecroppers from plantations during benefit payment time, and then hire them in the spring to produce the crops. State officials hinted that national guards may be called to move the people on the grounds that they formed a "health menace".

Roadside 'Homes' Wrecked

Claim Many Are Cotton Pickers Out Of Work

NEW MADRID—(SNS)—The Missouri State Highway Patrol started to break up an "army" of more than 1,000 sharecroppers shivering in snow and rain-soaked highway camps near here Saturday afternoon. The patrol was acting in cooperation with health authorities. The ditch-sitting tenants have been living in the open along southeast Missouri highways since Tuesday.

The sudden turn of events in the dramatic protest of the cotton croppers over their poverty-stricken condition reached a climax when it was announced they would be "moved out" if they were found to be a "menace to public health."

Commenting on the situation was Superintendent B. M. Casteel, of the Missouri State Highway patrol:

"I don't know where we would put them. But if they threaten public health they must be moved somewhere."

Supt. Casteel said further he was informed many of the demonstrators were not actually sharecroppers, but cotton pickers from Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee who were out of jobs "as usual at the close of the picking season.

According to reports, the families, including white and colored persons, refused to vacate their quickly constructed homes as they were standing by awaiting orders from their officials of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

The families have contended for aid from the Farm Security Administration.

The sharecroppers are located on Highway 61, north of Caruthersville, north of Catron and Sikeston and on the outskirts of Wyatt.

Owen H. Whitfield of Cape Giradeau, is the reported organizer of the highway demonstration.

MISSOURI'S SHARECROPPERS

It is not pleasant to recall the picture of certain Missouri highways crowded with homeless sharecroppers. Nor is it pleasant to inquire into the reasons for that demonstration which last fall attracted national attention. That is what the government said it intended to do, and it is what it should continue to do.

But it has fallen to Josephine Johnson Smoot, author of the Pulitzer prize novel "Now In November," to draw the curtain back and reveal in all its sordidness the story of what has happened to those evicted sharecroppers. In The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Mrs. Smoot describes visits she has paid to the many settlements and camps now occupied by the helpless ex-farmers of Southeast Missouri.

At one place 100 sharecroppers live in the swamp land near a levee. Thirty families live in tents around a church near a highway. In one tent are thirteen persons, living off of side meat and saltless bread. "But there are worse places than the country camps," the famous novelist reports.

In the town of Charleston fourteen families live in a deserted dance hall. "Each family has a room smaller than a prison cell, some so dark that even in the day an oil lamp is the only light. A bed and stove fill the space completely. No ventilation. One family cooks over a tub filled with charcoal. Four people live together in a space hardly big enough for a dog to turn around in. The heat and dirt and sickness are inevitable.

"The local relief office is deaf to these people, doling out just enough to keep them hoping. No one from the office has ever visited this place, has ever seen the black rooms lighted only by the fire in the stove with pregnant women, babies, little children, hungry men huddled in darkness, with nothing to do—but hope.

"Warehouses with food, idle land, a country richer than any in the world, and in a cell room, stifling with heat from a wood stove, five sharecroppers sat on a broken bed and read a postcard by the light of fire from the stove. 'Please come down to the office tomorrow,' the postcard said, 'and we will give you an order of grapefruit.'"

The plight of the croppers has been dramatized and publicized in Missouri, but conditions in other agricultural States are not much better. The problem presented is one of the most distressing that confronts the country, and it is growing worse instead of better. The measures that so far have been taken to aid the submarginal farmers have hardly scratched the surface.

INSIDE VIEW OF PLIGHT IS GIVEN BY OWN PENS

Stories Are Those of Systematic Exploitation

Letters of Sharecroppers

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — June 2—The conditions under which the sharecroppers worked, their systematic exploitation by the landlords, the causes for their eviction last January, and the sufferings which they have endured since that time, are graphically related in a series of letters written by them to Lorenzo J. Greene, Assistant Professor of History of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. Given to the public for the first time, they throw a lurid light upon one of the most distressing economic and social problems facing the American people today.

From Mary Pratt, a widow, mother of five children, came the following story:

"My name is Mary Pratt.

My age is 34 years. I am not married. I am a widow. I have five children in my family. I worked on Mr. Jimmy Reeves place. I had eight (8) acres of cotton, no corn, I only had twelve chickens, no hogs, nor cows. I made ten bales of cotton and I cleared only a little money. What little money I made clear, I bought winter clothes and food for the family.

My reason for leaving is the boss man told me to move because he didn't want any sharecroppers, he was going to plant his farm in pasture, such as wheat, alfalfa, Lespediza, etc. He made me move in the hard part of the winter on January 11, 1939. The only government money that I have received is only two (2) grant checks. The amount was $22.00.

I am a union lady. My life here at the camp has been very unsatisfactory because I only have a small amount of food to eat but now I am getting along pretty good. The most particular thing that I need is dresses, under clothes, and food, and a few clothes for the children.

The thing that I am fighting for is my right—and some where to live. I have no where to go and live but here in tents. I cook out of doors when the weather is good but when the weather is bad I cook in some ones tent. So this is my story."

Extremely informing is the letter written by Walter Johnson, leader of the sharecroppers at the Sweet Home Baptist Church:

Dear Sir:

"I am writing you in regards of my eviction from the farm. I was on Mr. O. A. Reeves farm about 1½ miles southwest of Deventer, Mo. Mr. O. A. Reeves sent me a written notice to me at night about nine o'clock by a deputy constable of Wyatt, Mo. in Mississippi Co. The notice telling me to quit possession written Jan. 3, 1939 to give possession by the 15th day of January 1939. I felt it to be unlegal and I carried the notice to the State Attorney and asked him about it and he told me that he (Mr. Reeves) did not need to give me but 10 days and said that Mr. Reeves had given me plenty of time and that he would advise me to move that I have got 12 days and I should give Mr. Reeves his house and not have no trouble for a sharecropper did not hafter have but 10 days. So I began to walk looking for a place and I could not find no place and I had no money for Mr. Reeves had not settled with me and a deal of others. He also put our cotton in the Government loan and ask none of us anything about it and I begain to portest (protest) Mr. Reeves about my cotton. I made 9 bails of cotton and Mr. Reeves would not allow me to put my part of cotton in the Government loan so I could be entitle to father (further) Payments should cotton go up on Market. And also Mr. Reeves in 1938 tryed to get me to sign over my 1937 government Payment and because I Would not do it he was very hard to get along with now. I made 2 crops of Cotton on Mr. O. A. Reeves Farm. One doning (during) 1937-38 I work 15 acreage of cotton in 1937. and when I received my government payment Mr. Reeves just turn in for me 5 1-2 acreage of cotton When he should have turn in 15 acreage for me. I tryed to get consideration from Washington. D. C. from the Department of Agriculture. they defored (referred) my letter to Jefferson City, Mo. and Jefferson City defored (referred) to Columbia Mo. and they just continue to hold for The landlord said I just could not get but $11.52 and I pick and gin 15 bails of cotton and my 1937 payment just come to $11.52 when they got throu (through). Now I has not yet got my 1938 Payments. now it is more hader to get what you make in this county after making it than it is to work and make it. Now Mr. O. A. Reeves also charge me $2.50 for garden after the crops was laid by and he also charge 75 cent per bail for to hail it to the gin and he should not have charged anything. The many landlords had come to an agreement they was to work the farms on a bases and that mean that the sharecroppers would not get but 3 bails of cotton out of 8 bails so all of the farmers begain to give they labor notice to move and you could not go to no other place and get no sharecrops other than on a Bases. Then moving taken place on about Jan. 9-10-11-12 and the Highway 62-61 begain to get busy and I and my group come to this Church sweet home. And have been here ever since that time. we came to this church and it begain to snow and sleet and rain...and it has been the only home for us up until now. Altho We have been threaten by the White Peoples of this County and we also have treated verry cool by our county laws, and now we are faceing a law suit. 3 of this group have all ready got summons to court the First Monday in June, They are trying to get us out of this church. I am unable as to no whate will be the result we are for Just what evers come, we are here and I guess This is where we will be untill they sue us off this ground.

So I shall close for tractors and over production have put a many farmers out of work and off the farm so they want we poor peoples to work for 75 cent and $1.00 per day and we just cant live at Those prices. So this being all."

Walter Johnson
Wyatt, Mo.

COTTON PICKERS GOING TO SOUTHEAST MISSOURI MAY FIND A 'WARM' WELCOME

Kansas City, Mo.

ST. LOUIS. — (Special) —It has been learned from a reliable source that cotton pickers who may be planning to go into southeastern Missouri this fall will do so at the risk of their lives.

As a result of a near riot the latter part of last month in the town of Oran, Mo., there has been an unfriendly feeling existing between the whites and Negroes of that neighborhood.

Seven families, who formerly resided in Oran, have been chased out of the town. Three of the families owned their own homes in the town. They were the families of the Rev. P. J. Roberts, William Wells and Ernest Murphy. Other residents who were forced to flee were the Sam Dunlaps, John Brandys, Walter Grices and Mat Phillips.

A St. Louis Call reporter was told yesterday that the trouble started last month when two drunken white youths joined in with others to run all of the Negroes out of Oran. Fifteen whites, according to the report, set upon one single man and began attacking him.

Six Negroes Arrested

In the melee a white youth, Albert Heiser, was seriously cut. Heiser, who was a member of the mob, is quoted as saying he is sure he was cut by another member of the mob as there were so many fighting the one man it could not have been the Negro youth.

After the white boy was cut, the mob then ran to a store where they got Freddie Clark and was about to tie him to a car when Sheriff John Harms drove up and rescued the youth from the mob. The sheriff took the boy home.

Later, the sheriff came back to Oran and arrested six Negroes who were pointed out to him by whites as the ones who started the trouble. One of those arrested was a woman. After being held for six days, five were dismissed, but the other was held for 21 days. Charges are reported to have been filed against the one person but since no evidence could be established, he was freed.

Last Sunday, our informant states, two men were walking along the public road intending to go through Oran and they were attacked and driven out of the city.

Oran, which is about 16 miles northwest of Sikeston, Mo., is in the area which was the center of trouble late last winter when hundreds of sharecroppers were driven from their homes in bitter cold weather. The situation became so tense that troops of the state police were called upon to keep order.

At present, most of those who were driven out of their homes last winter have found lodging with other Negro farmers of the district and still remain in Scott and Stoddard counties. Their crops, however, are still in the field and they are not allowed to go back to harvest them.

It is customary that a large number of cotton pickers are imported into the area each fall to reap the harvest. It is feared, however, that despite the fact the landowners may seek additional aid among Negro cotton pickers that when the workers get there, they will not find a pleasing welcome.

SHARECROPPERS ON MO. TRACT HOPELESS GROUP OF WANDERERS

Protests Bring Reply, "We Are Willing To Leave, But Where?"—Anger of White Farmers Turns to Sympathy.

POPULAR BLUFF, Mo., June 29—(Special)—The plight of the shipload of Jewish refugees who returned to Europe recently after weeks of hopeless cruising, because they could not find a home in any land whose shores they visited, was no worse than that of the more than 200 Negro families that with six or seven white families . . . all of them dispossessed sharecroppers . . . were dumped on a 90-acre woodland tract 15 miles Southwest of here, a few days ago.

They were brought by truck to this area which borders on Little Black River, from the Sweet Home Baptist Church Community in a neighboring county, and farmers on adjoining lands are appealing to authorities to remove them claiming they knew nothing about the enforced migration until it had been completed.

These homeless people, representing what is still left of the hundreds that camped by the roadside near New Madrid last January in a demonstration that attracted nation-wide interest and sympathy, have expressed their willingness to go somewhere . . . anywhere else, but where.

They don't know, nor does anyone in authority.

PROTESTS DIRECTED AT NEGRO FAMILIES

Protests of owners of adjoining farms are directed mainly against the colored families, based on the contention that no Negroes have ever lived in that section before. Should the Negroes have to move on in their search for homes and the few white families be allowed to stay, however, they will be little if any better off than those who have been their companions in misery for so long. Less than 30 acres of the 90 the tract to which they were brought comprises, is suitable for farming, and the soil is not only thin and poor, but is covered with brush that will have to be cleared before any attempt at cultivation can be made.

Though it has not been definitely established, reports are current that the property was bought through a former tenant-farmer by the Missouri Agricultural Workers Council, alleged C. I. O. affiliate, from the St. Louis Federal Land Bank. C.I.O. badges are being worn, it is said, by some of the destitute sharecropper emigrants.

MAKE VISIT IN ANGER; REMAIN TO SYMPATHIZE

A representative of the Sheriff's office, who made a preliminary investigation, reported he found the people scattered through the woods. He talked to a number of them, he said, none of whom appeared to know "what it was all about" or why they had been brought there. They had no idea what the future had in store for them, nor how they and their families were to get food. Told they were to be transferred to another camp, they "just moved," they said.

A delegation of neighboring white farmers that visited the tract to protest to the dazed migrants personally and insist that they go somewhere else, returned with their belligerent frame of mind changed to one of sympathy.

"They all said they were willing to move," a spokesman for the delegation said, "but they don't know where to go to. They asked us if we knew of some place and we had to tell them we didn't."

It is understood local authorities will appeal to the State to aid these hopeless people, at least to the extent of furnishing them with food and shelter, until some solution of the problem can be found and, failing in that, will appeal directly to the Federal Government.

MIDWEST EVINCES NEW INTEREST IN SHARECROPPERS' PLIGHT

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. June 29.

Attention is again being focused upon the destitute Negro sharecroppers of southeast Missouri. Through the efforts of Lorenzo J. Greene and the students of Lincoln University of Jefferson City, Missouri, much has been done to rekindle public interest in these unfortunate and homeless people. Touched by Mr. Greene's plea of a month ago in behalf of the croppers, the students of Lincoln University, led by the A. K. A. sorority and the Student council, responded nobly by contributing clothing, shoes, food, medicine and money. Since that time additional money and clothing have been collected which will be taken to the sharecroppers this week.

The efforts of the students of Lincoln University to alleviate the conditions of the sharecroppers have stimulated new interest in the croppers throughout the Midwest.

Many people in this section who had dismissed the sharecroppers' problem as settled when it no longer made newspaper headlines, now realize that the croppers are in a worse predicament than ever.

Brought face to face with the real plight of the evicted tenants, many individuals in widely scattered communities are eager to do whatever they can to aid them. As evidence of this Mr. Greene has received letters from several persons in the midwestern states, either offering to aid or inquiring what they can do to help the cause of the striking croppers.

Among these inquiries was a letter from the Rev. Mr. S. R. Wright of Rolla, Missouri, who wrote:

"I take this opportunity as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to compliment you on the great Christian work you started on the Lincoln University campus in aiding the unfortunates at Charleston, Missouri. May God bless you all for that noble deed. I hope this will be the beginning of a concentrated effort to help these people. I shall raise what I can through our church and forward it to you."

From Ernest Clayborn of Ottawa, Kansas, came the following letter:

"I, Ernest Clayborn, seat myself this day to drop you a few lines in regard to the stricken landless folk that I read of in the CALL and extend my sympathy to them. I would like to get in touch with someone that would like to have a nice home. Lady preferred, between the ages of forty and fifty, widow or single. I have a nice Cafe here and am in need of a helpmate. . . . So if you know someone that would consider such an opportunity, tell them to get in touch with me at once."

Mrs. Emma Hicks of Centerville, Iowa, expressed her desire to aid the croppers, by writing Mr. Green as follows:

"I see by the Kansas City Call the sad condition of the sharecroppers and wonder if we could help by sending some clothing or shoes. If so, please let me know and just how to send them. I will be glad to collect and send something as soon as we can hear from you."

Mrs. Louise Glass of Des Moines, Iowa, wrote:

"Just a few lines to commend you and the girls who gave up plans for a Spring dance to aid the sharecroppers.

"There is no telling how far that little candle may throw its beams. It shows what one can do when he is sincere. May you and the many others with you go on and on to greater achievements along this line."

From Thelma E. Marshall, Gary, Indiana, an inquiry was directed to Mr. Greene, in an effort to ascertain what might be done in an organized way to help the croppers. Said Miss Marshall:

"I note with a good deal of interest your activity and that of the A. K. A. chapter on your campus in behalf of the evicted Negro sharecroppers of Missouri.

"The weekly news magazines, daily press, and monthly social work magazines have all been rather silent on the situation recently and there are some of us that would like to know what is happening to them. I would like your opinion on some aspects of the situation as well as some information concerning the same.

1. "Are local relief agencies doing anything at all to relieve their (the sharecroppers) plight? If so, how much? If not, what are the technical points advanced to render them ineligible for aid?

2. "Is there any movement yet originated to re-establish these people in the field of productive enterprise?

3. "If there is not, do you think that an appeal to some organized body that exists as a national organization, such as the Urban League or N. A. A. C. P. or perhaps some of our national sororities or fraternities to assume the leadership in raising funds on a nation-wide basis to rehabilitate these people is a feasible idea? I have in mind the leadership assumed by the Red Cross in raising funds to relieve food sufferers or victims of other disasters.

4. "Next after their immediate and elementary needs are met—those of food, shelter, and clothing—what about the possibility of permanent rehabilitation by the development of some such project as Sherwood Eddy has experimented with in Clarksdale Mississippi? Do you think that feasible?

5. "Do you think there is any

possibility of securing federal aid to relieve these conditions?

"I am a case work supervisor in the Lake County Department of Public Welfare, and I shall appreciate very much hearing from you on this situation at your convenience."

These letters show a growing concern by Negroes in widely scattered communities over the plight of the unfortunate sharecroppers. They also indicate an increasing realization of social oneness; that the homeless starving sharecroppers and their families are fighting the battle of an entire people—the grim and determined battle against "landlordism" and oppression. These evicted tenants are the militant vanguard, endeavoring through their privation and suffering to throw off the shackles of exploitation. Since this is so, it is only right and proper that all who hate injustice should do all in their power to aid these people in their struggle by contributions of money, clothing, food and medicine. The students of Lincoln University have pointed the way. By their unselfish and noble sacrifice they have gained the undying gratitude of the sharecroppers, identified themselves with one of the great social problems of our day, and set the example for others to follow. As Albion L. Holsey, secretary of the National Negro Business league, expressed it in a letter to President Sherman D. Scruggs, of Lincoln University in foregoing their annual spring prom and donating the assessments of one hundred and fifty dollars to the sharecroppers is unprecedented in the annuals of Negro colleges. More, however, remains to be done. The croppers are still destitute. Food, and clothing are still urgently needed, and unless they are forthcoming, starvation, disease, and death must of necessity follow.

200 SHARECROPPERS MOVE TO NEW CAMP

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo.—(ANP)—Relief for about 200 colored refugee sharecroppers of Southeast Missouri came this week when a 90-acree tract of land bordering the Black river, 15 miles southwest of here, was placed at their disposal for settlement purposes.

Establishments of the new camp was announced by Owen Whitfield, colored minister and one of the organizers of the sharecroppers' demonstration for better wages and living conditions last winter during the workers set up camp on the main highway, finally sought refuge in an abandoned church. Their plight soon attracted nation-wide attention.

Whitfield said the new camp site was purchased by the Missouri Agricultural Workers' council, a CIO affiliate. Thirty-eight families during last week-end were moved from Home church near Charleston and on Tuesday additional families arrived. All are being temporarily housed in tents.

Site of the new settlement is an abandoned farm, uncultivated for several years, and much of the land is in timber. A spring gives the dwellers their water supply and camp leaders say they will soon start vegetable gardens for their food supply.

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LETTERS REVEAL SUFFERING OF EVICTED MO. SHARECROPPERS

This is the last in a series of letters revealing the conditions under which the evicted Missouri sharecroppers worked, their systematic exploitation by the landlords, the causes for their eviction last January and the sufferings which they have endured since that time.

These letters, three of which have been published in previous issues of the BEE, were written to Lorenzo J. Greene, assistant professor of history of Lincoln university, Jefferson City, Mo.

The final letter in the series, and extremely informing, is one written by Walter Johnson, leader of the sharecroppers at the Sweet Home Baptist church:

"Dear Sir:

"I am writing you in regards of my eviction from the farm. I was on Mr. O. A. Reeves farm about 1½ miles south of Deventer, Mo. Mr. O. A. Reeves sent me a written notice at night about nine o'clock by a deputy constable of Wyatt, Mo., in Mississippi county. The notice telling me to quit possession written January 3, 1939, to give possession by the 15th day of January, 1939.

"I felt it to be unlegal and I carry the notice to the State Attorney and ask him about it and he told me that he (Mr. Reeves) did not need to give me but 10 days and said that Mr. Reeves had given me plenty of time and that he would advise me to move that I have got 12 days and I should give Mr. Reeves his house and not have no trouble for a sharecropper did not hafter have but 10 days.

"So, I began to walk, looking for a place and I could not find no place and I had no money for Mr. Reeves had not settled with me and a deal of others. He also put our cotton in the Government loan and ask none of us anything about it and I began to portest (protest) Mr. Reeves about my cotton. I made 9 bails of cotton and Mr. Reeves would not allow me to put my part of cotton in the Government loan so I could be entitled to father (further) payments should cotton go up on Market.

"And also Mr. Reeves in 1938 tryed to get me to sign over my 1937 government Payment and because I Would not do it he was very hard to get along with now. I made 2 crops of Cotton on Mr. O. A. Reeves farm. One doning (during) 1937-38 I work 15 acerage of cotton in 1937, and when I received my government payment Mr. Reeves just turn in For me 5 1-2 acreage for me.

"I tryed to get consideration from Washington, D. C., from the Department of Agriculture. they defored (referred) my letter to Jefferson City, Mo., and Jefferson City defored (referred) to Columbia, Mo., and they just continue to hold for the landlord said I just could not get but $11.52 and I pick and gin 15 bails of cotton and my 1937 payment just come to $11.52 when they got throu (through). Now I has not yet got my 1938 Payments. now it is more hader to get what you make in this county after making it than it is to work and make it.

"Now Mr. O. A. Reeves also charge me $2.50 for garden aftir the crops was laid by and he also charge 75 cents per bail to hall it to the gin and he should not have charged anything. The many landlords had come to an agreement they was to work the farms on a bases and that mean that the sharecroppers would not get but three bails of cotton out of eight bails so all of the farmers begain to give they labor notice to move and you could not go to any other place and get no sharecrops other than on a Bases. Then moving taken place on about January 9-10-11-12 and the Highway 62-61 begain to get busy and I and my group come to this Church sweet home. And have been here ever since that time. we came to this church and it begain to snow and sleet and rain . . . and it has been the only home for us up untill now.

"Altho We have been threaten by the White Peoples of this county and we also have treated verry cool by our county laws, and now we are facing a law suit. 3 of this group have all ready got summons to court the First Monday in June, They are trying to get us out of this church. I am unable as to no whate will be the result we are for. Just what evers come, we are here and I guess This is where we will be untill they sue us off this ground.

"So I shall close for tractors and over production have put a many formers out of work and off the farm so they want we poor peoples to work for 75 cent and $1.000 per day and we just cant live at Those prices. So this being all.

WALTER JOHNSON
Wyatt, Mo.

AGRICULTURE - 1939
LABOR CONDITIONS

One of The Hundreds



Sharecropper J. T. Thomas serving a meal while camping by the roadside near Hayti, Mo. He was one of several hundred evicted sharecroppers camping in the vicinity.

Trek From Homes In Mass Protest Against Landlords

More Than 1500 Camp By 100 Miles Of Highway In Southeast Mo.

While hundreds of sharecroppers huddled about campfires for 100 miles along U. S. Highways 60 and 61 in Southeast, Mo., an Agricultural Adjustment Administrator of the Farm Security Administration launched an investigation of the massed exodus of tenants from farms in the cotton country, the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield told representatives of the press an amazing story of the incident surrounding the dramatic happening at the Usher League Wednesday afternoon.

Saw Hard Life

Whitfield, who stated that he was a sharecropper 35 years and never had any security until his family was taken in on the Le-Farge farms settlement project, disclosed how through years of seemingly fruitless toil he cared for a family of 15 children (three of whom are dead) somehow. When a boy, he ran away from Arkansas to Mississippi where he received an education in a grade school at Egypt, and a high-school at Oklahoma, then returned to Arkansas where, in 1928, he received his credentials to preach. He struggled on with his people preaching the gospel theme "Pie in the Sky, by and by," and the doctrine that people should be like the bird—"There's a worm somewhere and he gets up with a song and goes out after it."

In 1937 he said while plowing along he struck some of the worse grass that grows—tall, deep root—that comes up again almost as soon as you cut it down. Something moved him. He called his son and told him to take his plow, he was going out to try to improve conditions for himself, his family and others in that oppressed plantation belt.

He went to Memphis, became a member of the sharecroppers' union and went to the C.I.O. convention in Denver, where, among the representatives of 42 nations who formed an International for all workers in agriculture, he was awakened.

Continuing the story of the plight of the people in the Sikeston area he said:

Worked For Good

"By last August I had organized 17,000 sharecroppers in the Mississippi, Scott, New Madrid, Pemiscott, Stoddard, and Dunely counties. Then I became acquainted with the situation of the landlord's scheming to move sharecroppers from benefits of parady, subsidy and conservation under farm security, from which they were due half benefit. For the first two years the landlords chiseled. When this became known by the administration, they fixed it so that the sharecroppers could get a share, then the landlords began signing up the workers as day laborers. This was followed, last year, by a migration to St. Louis, Charleston, Cape Girardeau, Chicago and other cities. They overcrowded into places whereever they could find a shack.

"Three months ago when I saw what was going to happen I began traveling to see what would happen if there would be a general eviction. I obtained money by contributions from collections at mass meetings and used money raised from the church for gas for my old car to travel in. The union has not put out any money, as it is very poor.

"I fought a lone battle, but profited by my family being on a farm security project.

"I knew the families would crowd into St. Louis. Some had already gone into swamps to build "pole pens" (shacks). I didn't want them to crow into these cities, which already had bad situations.

"The landlords had issued eviction notices, so I called a general mass meeting last Friday and requested them to send representatives from seven counties to voice their sentiments and we had about 450 persons present. The people were questioned as to what they were going to do and they replied they would rather get out on the hard road and walk. Many had been offered 75 cents a day for an average working day of fourteen hours, which was all some could get to support large families. The riding bosses saw that they would work until dark, but the darkness did not stop tractor drivers who had lights. This status of circumstances is just a collapse of the sharecropper system and I am glad it collapsed.

Faced With Issue

"I have had 35 years of it and never had any security until I became a part of the farm se-

THE SHARECROPPERS MOVE

It was a "great day" Tuesday for many of the sharecroppers of Southeast Missouri who gathered a few of their belongings and made their way to the highway where they set up temporary homes and are now waiting for some Moses to lead them "out of Egypt."

A movement of this kind at the time of year in which it took place is unprecedented in this country. Surely we are living in a mighty changing world. It is a common saying that "there is no redemption without the shedding of blood." Thus, it is to be expected that many of these people must necessarily suffer, but through their suffering many others will be redeemed.

As sad as the scene and the circumstances are, there are, as always in cases of this sort, those who would use this unfortunate situation to boost their own selfish ends of political advancement. Already there are those who are saying that this movement on the part of the sharecroppers is the beginning of a revolution against the Roosevelt administration, and anyone can see that such a suggestion would be readily accepted and encouraged by Republicans who are thinking about the election in 1940. The statement has also been made that this movement is definite proof of the failure of the New Deal Agricultural Adjustment Act. Therefore, those who are spreading propaganda in this vein will welcome anything that will prolong the acute situation and will lend themselves to any movement that might embarrass the Democratic administration. Even the "I told you so's" are working such a statement overtime.

The saying, "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good" may be applicable to the situation in Southeast Missouri. The treatment which these tenant farmers have received at the hands of the landowners over a period of many years may now be turned into benefit to all concerned. A proper adjustment of conditions complained of will surely come out of the present situation. Probably no one at this time can see what the ultimate results will be, but we repeat, "It is an ill wind that blows nobody good."

curity; I had nothing until they picked me up.'

Now I have a concrete storehouse full of supplies and my family doesn't have to worry about food until next winter, and they have a decent home to live in.

Rev. Whitfield insisted that his work in this matter had a twofold objective:

1. To break down the slavery in the sharecropper system.

2. To keep down influx to the city.

There are about 1700 people on United States Highways 60 and 61 from Sikeston to Cairo, a majority of which are Negroes. The highway for one hundred miles on one side is lined off to prevent the children venturing on the roads and being injured.

Each group of about twenty families has a lieutenant. It is the first time white people in this vicinity have ever been led by a Negro organizer.

I have no fear of what they may do to me for my stand in the matter, for if any of them would lay hands on me it would raise both white and colored up to fight. When they heard the hirelings of the landlords were inquiring for me, a group immediately came to Cape Girardeau and informed me and the mission sisters at the church gave me $7 and told me to move my quarters to St. Louis, and now I am here.

Suggests Moving on Highway

The sheriff said he was going to put them all in jail, after I suggested that they move along the highway, but I told him he had better wait awhile because you haven't a jail big enough to hold them.

I called Congressman Zimmerman of the Tenth District and told him we must have aid. Senator Harry Truman said he was going to stir it up.

The middle-aged minister, whose grandparents on his mother's side were Indian and white, and on his father's side, African, showing plenty of 'fighting blood' for this cause of humanity said that his purpose was to get the picture from behind the scenes and let the world know about it. "I don't believe," he went on, "that the American people will let those people stay out there in their present plight. All the reports of the bosses have been 'my niggers and poor white folks are getting along fine.'" They are determined to fight it out. I had warned the people to be frugal and save food, consequently a number of them have food and are sharing it.

Reports have said that the Red Cross is giving them a very bad deal and relief is meager. Aged people, expectant mothers, babies and children are there, huddled along the roadside. I have worked myself into the hearts of the people and they have faith in me. My theory about people is like that of the birds 'there is a worm somewhere, and he gets up with a song and goes out after it. I left my burden there 35 years and never got anywhere. Some of them have called me a second Moses, because few men in the South have faced danger like I.

"I waited until the planter went to sleep. I didn't go into the square and get all beat up and put into jail and not organize anybody."

Sharecroppers Call Him A 'Second Moses



REV. OWEN H. WHITFIELD

Cape Girardeau Baptist preacher who called and presided at meeting of Sharecroppers at First Baptist Church in Sikeston Saturday to determine their plight and their course of action. Blaming their circumstances on landlords wholesale posting of eviction notices in a plan to move them from tenant status in order to take from them their share of benefits from the federal farm cotton acreage reduction program, they decided on a mass exodus.

Wednesday a ragged army of these homeless men, women and children; aged and decrepit and expectant mothers scanned overcast skies wondering how soon predicted rain or snow might fall on their open air camps.

Health authorities studied the danger of an epidemic outbreak and expressed fear of the health of the farm families, particularly of the children. Lack of milk for infants is a common problem, and only small stores of food remained for anyone.

The St. Louis Industrial Council of the C. I. O. organized a committee to aid the sharecroppers Wednesday night. They raised $100 and announced that the first trucks with milk and food supplies would leave Saturday morning.

Over 1,000 Missouri Share Croppers and Families Are Promised Government Aid

Officials of the Farm Security Administration and Surplus Commodities Corporation to Act at Once

Most of Destitute Are Negroes

SKIESTON, Mo.—(ANP)—More than 1,000 Missouri sharecroppers and their families, huddled around campfires and improvised shelters, were cheered when the Farm Security administration and the Surplus Commodities corporation announced that food and other assistance would soon be provided them.

These families, most of them Negroes, are camped in sites dotting two major highways, 60 and 61, in a demonstration against tenant farmer poverty. The demonstration comes as the result of the wholesale number of eviction notices given to cotton sharecroppers last week.

The mass demonstration is being held to call attention to the action of planters who have changed the status of workers from that of share-croppers to day laborers to dispense with the sharing of government crop reduction payments. All the campers said they had received eviction notices and gave this as the reason.

If the boss can show that he has no farmers living on the premises as sharecroppers, employing labor at 75 cents a day for the 120 days needed, he will receive all of the government pay, was the opinion of the evicted farmers. The AAA testified as to the truth of this but after an investigation said that landlords changing from the traditional sharecropper system to a plan of employing day labor during the planting and harvesting season might be deprived of the crop-reduction payment.

United States Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri, said he would ask the WPA to assist with relief for the sharecroppers and that he would seek to amend the Farm act to prevent such evictions in the future.

"The trouble is that there is a movement on foot by large operators to use day labor instead of sharecroppers," Senator Truman declared. "Industrial farming gradually is taking the place of sharecropping."

In a camp of 175 between New Madrid and Marton, 69-year-old David Johnson told a reporter of his experiences as a sharecropper in Southeast Missouri.

"Last year they made me a day laborer," he said. "This year it's the same thing again. I don't know who's to blame. Can't blame the boss man altogether. Can't blame the government altogether. I just don't know," he shook his head sadly.

The families participating in the demonstration have, for the most part, inadequate protection against the chill winds and dampness. Some few have improvised shelters and tents. Others are grouped about small campfires and oil stoves, providing very little heat. Some spend the nights inside dilapidated autos and trucks while others sleep outside on cots or corn shuck mattresses.

In commenting on the situation, John T. Clark, executive secretary of the St. Louis Urban League, says, "We have long since realized that our problems in the city are not separate from those of Negroes in rural districts. A great many city problems are caused by just such situations as this. Many of those evicted will come to St. Louis, where unemployment is already widespread." Clark sent a telegram to Gov. Stark asking that relief be provided for the evicted sharecroppers.

The sharecroppers, under the leadership of ministers in the groups, are holding religious meetings and discussion groups, and filling the countryside with prayer and song.

Sharecroppers Follow Leader



The Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, of La Grange, Mo., and one of the leaders of the Missouri sharecroppers who were evicted and who walked off the plantations in protest of the changing of their status by plantation owners from sharecroppers to day laborers.

Ask Sharecroppers Investigation In Southeast Missouri

The St. Louis Social Workers' Study Club in an open letter issued Monday urged an unbiased investigation of the sharecroppers situation in Southeast Mo. The letter signed by O. O. Morris, chairman of Social Workers Study Group, Mrs Leona [illegible] Evans, chairman of Share[illegible] Committee, Arnold Wall [illegible], Nathella Bledsoe stated that "regardless of the underlying causes leading to the present crisis, we are deeply concerned about the present temporary arrangement forced upon the demonstrating sharecroppers."

The letter pointed out the following points:

1. Innocent children of school age and under have been exposed to undue hardships which threaten their physical, mental and moral development.

2. Expectant mothers are having their lives and the lives of unborn children endangered by the lack of places in which to be confined.

3. Family life is badly handicapped and standards of decency cannot be maintained under the present indescribable condition.

4. These people were moved from the highway allegedly as a public health measure yet they were placed on the swampy infectious and hazardous spillway where under no condition could health be protected. They were moved from the spillway apparently because of the white persons in the community who had a tradition of "no Negroes allowed."

5. Nearby urban communities are certain to have a non-resident problem of large proportions unless these people can have their problems solved satisfactorily in the rural sections where they choose to live.

6. This problem is one of changing agrarian systems and those who suffer most from the present system should have help in planning their future.

7. Representatives from our membership who have spent several days in this area during this period of unrest, concur with us in the opinion that the local authorities should not and cannot be expected to make an unbiased investigation or to give impartial information. We are struck by the feeling that this tragic and brave effort to better themselves should be called "a silly demonstration."

We urge you to use your influence to secure an unprejudiced investigation by the Federal officials now in the field. We feel that this situation is very serious and if not adjusted properly it will become increasing dangerous.

U. H. Whitfield On Tour For Sharecroppers

O. H. Whitfield, the leader and spokesman for the thousands of tenant farmers who marched to the highways in the great sharecropper's exodus recently, is on a speaking tour in their behalf.

Since leaving St. Louis January 27 he addressed 6000 people at a mass meeting, sharing the platform with Mayor Kelly of the City of Chicago. January 28 his audience was a group of theological students in the University of Chicago.

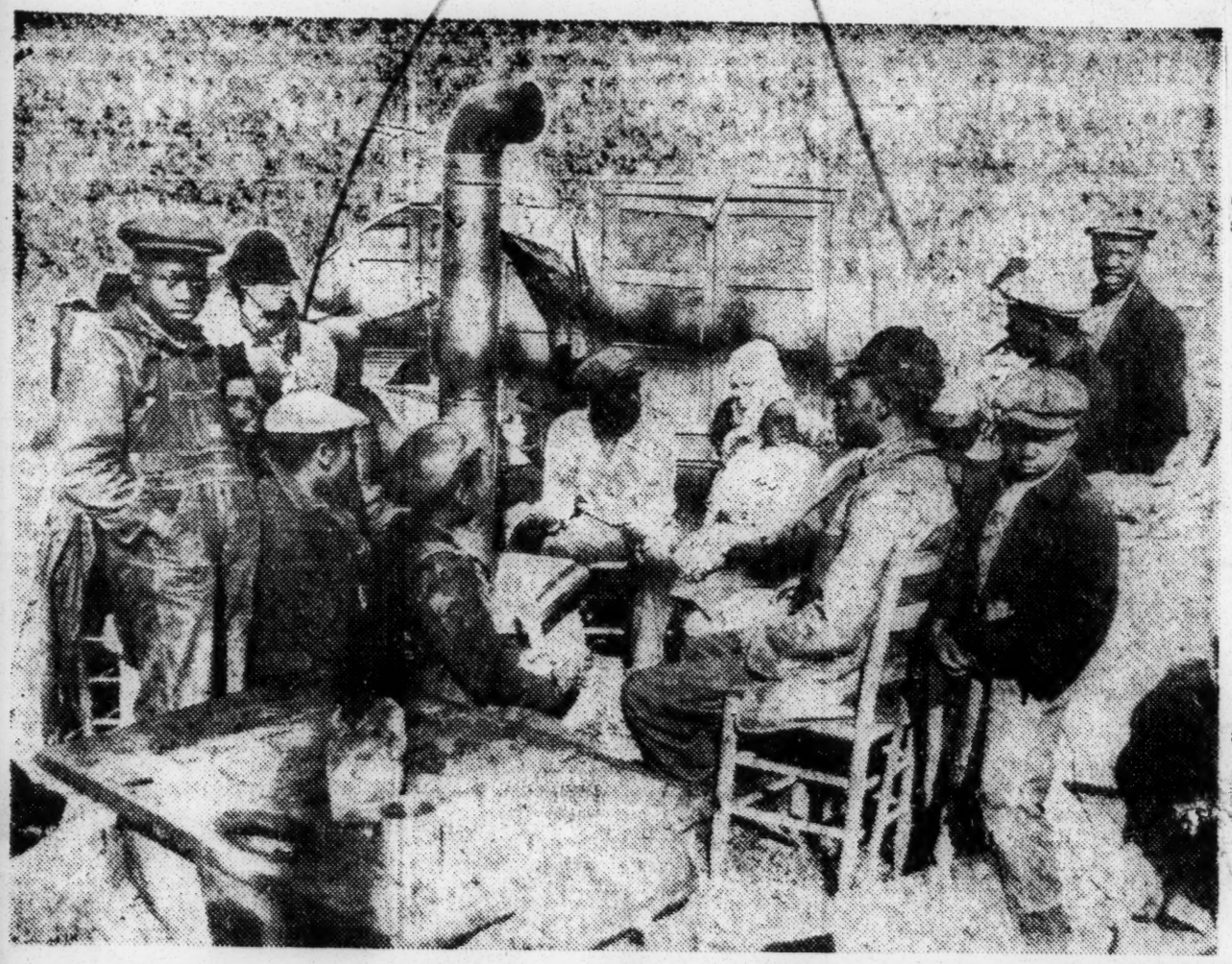
Receptions were given in his honor during his speaking engagements at Amherst College and Northwestern Seminary.

In New York City he addressed six groups of various organizations and three mass meetings. He was scheduled to appear before the Senate Committee at Washington, D. C., and was granted a conference with President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

His speaking tour will terminate at Memphis, Tenn.

Whitfield has received great ovations in each city visited, had his picture taken with Mayor Fiorella H. LaGuardia and is encouraged by the belief that ninety percent of the people are in accord with his plans.

Landlords' New Policy Forces Sharecroppers Into Highway Camps



These sharecroppers are some of the 1,000 who recently walked off plantations in Southeast Missouri and set up emergency camps along 100 miles of Missouri highways in protest of being changed from sharecroppers to day laborers.

In the scene above, typical of hundreds of others, two cook stoves, a ramshackle wardrobe, chairs and a small amount of bedding, with only a day's supply of food represent the sole possessions of these colored families evicted from New Madrid County farms.

The sharecroppers followed in the footsteps of their leaders, the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, who was not evicted. Hundreds of white sharecroppers also c ped out on the highway in protest of the land-owners decision. Famine and inclement weather fail to change the campers.

Sharecroppers State Found Deplorable

On last Thursday the Rev. J A. Dames of St. James, S. H Lewis of Wayman Temple, an Frank M. Reid of St. Paul, se out with a truck load of clothing donated by members and friends of their congregations for share croppers in southeastern Mis souri. Due to mechanical difficulties they were compelled to spend five hours at a garage 18 miles south of Sweden town making repairs. Two white mechanics worked at top speed on the truck owned by David White, but when they learned the mission of the group the cost amounted to only $3.90.

The Rev. L. F. Green, pastor of St. James, Cape Girardeau, met the party near the high way. He advised them to take their load to Charleston, Mo., where he felt suffering was most acute.

About 11 P. M. just outside of Cape Girardeau several uniformed patrolmen and officers detained Mr. White and Frank, drivers of the truck to inquire about their mission. While explanations were being given, the ministers drove up and explained that they were missionaries on an errand of mercy. The officers then inquired f they were members of the C. I. O., or were they allies of the Rev. Whitfield, but when they further explained that the were seeking only to help the suffering, and further that they had secured permission from State Patrol, Kirkwood 61, to make the trip, they were allowed to pass on without any more questioning.

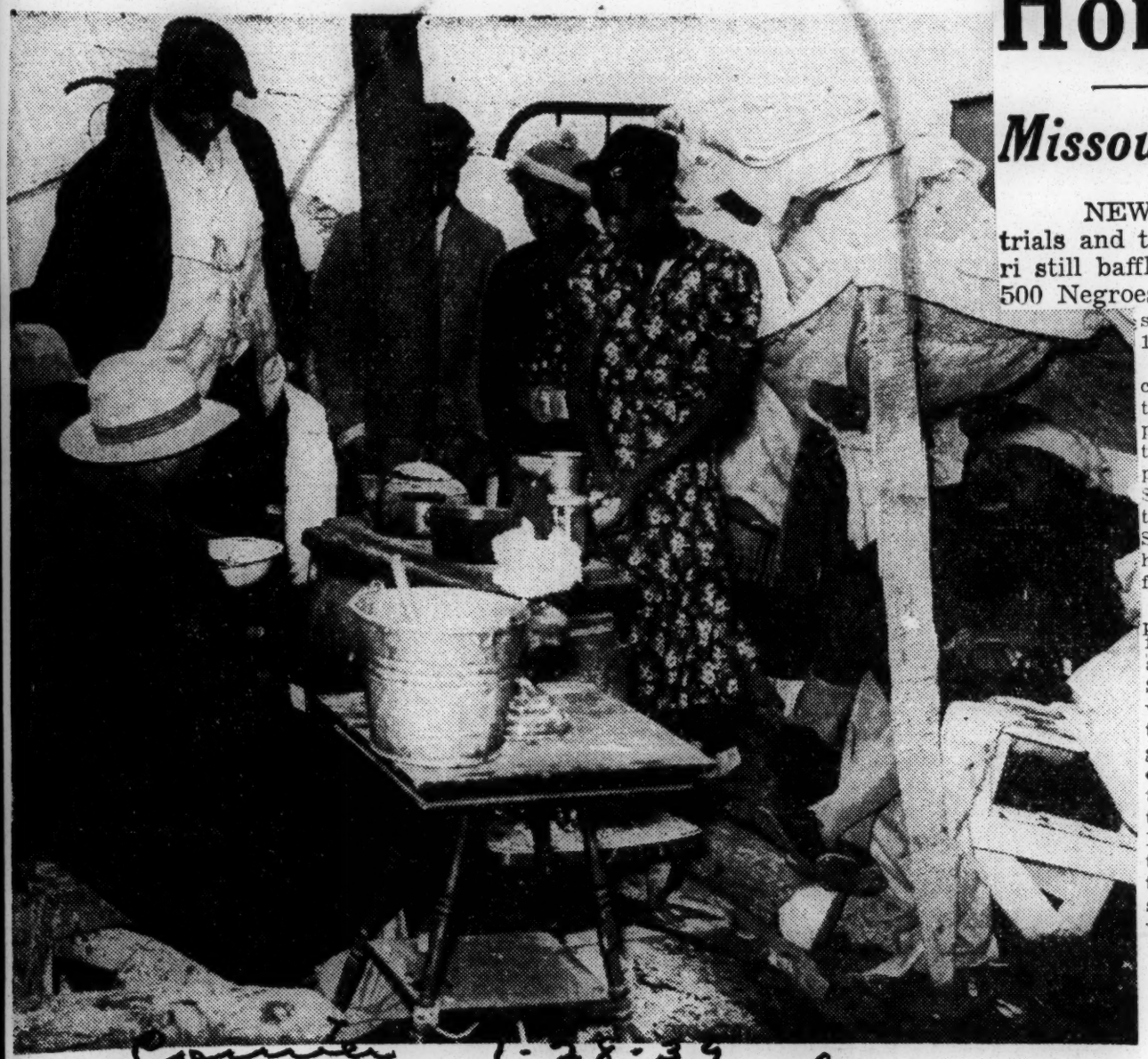
At midnight the party was met by the Rev. C. L. Williams, Pastor of Bethel A. M. E. Church, as they arrived in Charleston. The Pastor and several members of his church assisted in unloading the truck. His church was used to assist and distribute the goods. Early Friday morning the party left for Sweet Home Camp, about 4 miles west of Charleston. Here they met about 100 destitute men, women and children. Some were partially housed in an abandoned Baptist Church, others were gathered in tents made of old clothing and blankets. Still others huddled around fires sheltered behind windbreakers made of old quilts etc. One can hardly conceived how they could so cheerfully endure such inconvenience and suffering. Shuffling about in this soft wet mud of the swampland, they expressed overe and over their determination to stay and see it through.

Albert Johnson is the captain of this group. They stated that the land owners have introduced a new scale for sharing the crops, 60-40 proposition. Up to this time most of them have worked on a 50-50 basis. Aside from this the owners seem determined that the tenants are not to share in any of the benefits of the Government's Crop reduction program. One way of doing this is by a method of annual evictions. It was pointed out that 75 per cent of those at Sweet Home Camp were evicted, yet only seven of that number received written eviction notice. These land owners have been shrewd enough to give few written eviction notices. However an eviction by word of mouth is as lawful in this section as a written notice. If a tenant refuses to move because his notice of eviction is not in writing he is then arrested as a trespasser and in several instances he has been brutally beaten because of his demands. On the other hand, if no written eviction is in evidence it is easy for land owners to deny ever havig served notice of eviction to a tenant. Seventy five cents a day is the preailing wages being offered those who return to the farms in lieu of the 60-40 crop-sharing plan. For such a pittance a man must run a tractor, plow, repair barns and buildings, in fact, do anything he is called upon to do and the maximum time is from three to four days a week. In other words it is from $2.25 to $3.00 a week or else. And so hundreds of these poor sufferers are bravely accepting the alternative and hoping that through this medium of secrifice they may achieve the justice they so much deserve.

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PREACHER HAD TO FLEE FROM WRATH TO COME



One of the treasured possessions of the Rev. Owen Whitfield, clever organizer of the sharecroppers in Southeastern Missouri, is this picture which was presented to him by a staff member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Whitfield, warned by followers who heard of threats against his life, fled to St. Louis for safety. In this group are some of the sharecroppers evicted from the P. T. Barton and Sons 6,000-acre plantation at Catron, Mo. According to messages received in St. Louis by Whitfield, the 175 colored and white families on the Barton plantation are being replaced by Mexicans.

Homeless Sharecroppers!

Missouri Refugees Still A Problem To Authorities

NEW MADRID, Mo., Jan. 26—(ANP)—Last Wednesday, after a fortnight of trials and tribulations, the problem of the encamped sharecroppers in Southwest Missouri still baffled solution and there was no indication as to what would be done with the 500 Negroes, who, on Monday, were put into a camp six miles east of Highway 61, in a swamp area inundated during the 1937 floods.

The colored sharecroppers who constitute more than one-third of the group which had previously pitched camp along highways of the district, were evidently prepared for a long stay. Sheriff A. S. Stanley of New Madrid county and Sergeant R. R. Reed of the State Highway patrol, reported, however, that the camp was peaceful.

The officers said the sharecroppers had sufficient food, received from surplus commodity warehouses and from private sources, and Sheriff Stanley said, "I don't know what to do. They apparently want to stay up there and wait for some guardian angel to come and take care of them. If they don't want to go to any farm, you can't make the landowners take them. Sergt. Reed said there was a probability the sharecroppers would be moved to farms soon, but Sheriff Stanley said no procedure had as yet been worked out.

Declares Probe Of Sharecroppers' Plight Is Being Blocked By Planters

By CARL HARRIS

SIKESTON, Mo., Feb. 3.—"Swamp Eastern Missouri's" explosive sharecropper demonstration settled into a new phase this week as federal investigators moved into this area to open a far-reaching probe.

Meanwhile, planter-dominated officials were making frantic efforts to cover up the traces of a week-long reign of terror such as the nation has never witnessed before.

Hundreds of homeless families were being scattered all over the south-eastern Missouri landscape. Once again the whip hand of the landowners was in motion.

Gatherings Broken Up

In New Madrid county, where more than 500 of the destitute sharecroppers had been grouped, ruthless efforts were being made to separate families. Moving into the "Homeless Junction" swamp colony where the croppers have lived for almost a week, planters piled them into trucks and scattered them all over the county—in old barns, garages, vacant public buildings, in the shanty homes of other families.

"We've got them disbanded where they'll stop talking about their troubles and unions and other nonsense," Sheriff A. S. Stanley told your correspondent.

Thus the Sikeston bombshell that had its echo throughout the Cotton South, appears to have settled into a bitter, long-drawn-out battle, with the planters using the weapons of starvation and terrorism, while the evicted croppers called upon the nation to help them in their struggle to be restored to the land.

Nation Watches Outcome

Meanwhile, Virgil L. Bankson, investigator for the Farm Securities administration from Indianapolis, indicated that there would be a sweeping federal investigation of practices by the landowners to defraud sharecroppers of AAA benefits of the brazen violation of civil liberties, of collusion among the planters, local officers of federal agencies and local police authorities to smash the sharecroppers union and break up the demonstration by terrorism and starvation.

At the same time, the far reaching social upheaval that broke out in Missouri "bootheel" gained momentum as trade unions and progressive groups throughout the nation called on the government to aid the homeless sharecroppers.

Reports of terroristic activities against the union, that are comparable to the Harlan, Ky., atrocities, aroused a storm of protest from coast to coast.

MISSOURI HOMELESS GET CASH

Destitute Sharecroppers, Who Gathered to Protest Eviction, Secure Federal Relief.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 16 — (ANP) — Destitution among Southeast Missouri's homeless sharecroppers, tenants and farm workers has been lessened, it was disclosed here Wednesday by Farm Security Administration officials.

FSA officials told representatives of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, CIO affiliate, they were doing all in their power to aid the jobless Missouri farm workers, many of whom gathered recently in roadside camps to protest their eviction from farms by landlords who insisted on changing their sharecropper status to that of day workers.

Dr. W. W. Alexander, FSA administrator, told H. L. Mitchell of Memphis, Tenn. (white), STFU secretary-treasurer, and Rev. Owen Whitfield, vice-president, that FSA had made about 4,000 relief grants averaging $20 each, to about 3,500 families in the cotton-growing counties of Southeast Missouri in recent weeks. He said they would be unable to extend this relief indefinitely however, because of shortage of funds. He explained:

"We are robbing other parts of the country of funds they should receive in order to make grants to the Southeast Missouri families." Dr. Alexander also said FSA was investigating an offer of the Great Northern Land company at Popular Bluff, Mo., to extend use of cut-over and uncleared land to the homeless tenants and laborers.

EVICTED SHARE CROPPERS GET RELIEF CASH

FSA Grant Aid to 3,500 Families

2-14-39

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Get $20 Grants

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CROPPER ILLS VEX MISSOURI

2,000 Cotton-Pickers Still Burden Relief Agencies as Date for Contracts Nears

By LOUIS LA COSS

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 16.—The share-croppers' problem in Southeast Missouri is far from final settlement, despite their departure from the news as belligerent strikers who set up camps along the highways several weeks ago.

Their roadside camps are abandoned by order of the State Board of Health, but at least 2,000 are still in scattered groups off the traffic lanes, living in tents, eating food supplied by State and local relief agencies and still hoping that a generous Federal Government will resettle them with a new house, a dug well, a horse, a cow and sufficient implements to sow a crop this Spring. The outlook for realization of any of these hopes is dismal at present as the Farm Security Administration is just now beginning to investigate the situation.

There is much to be said on both sides of the controversial issue. Southeast Missouri has a rich soil, most of which is planted to cotton. The crop is seasonal but by custom the croppers have planted the cotton and harvested it, have received scant returns in cash, but have had the advantage of being provided with residence and food, medical care and other assistance the year around, even during the off-season in the fields.

Owners Not Prosperous

At the best the share-croppers' lot has been a hard one, but, on the other hand, the landowners are not overprosperous, only a few being in the class of the plantation owner of the romantic South.

Government crop restrictions have played their part in aggravating the differences between employer and employe.

So when the government last Summer started its La Forge resettlement project in Southeast Missouri, under which 110 families were provided with land, a new house and outbuildings, a dug well and tools with which to work, it was easy for labor agitators to incite the share-croppers, denied the advantages of La Forge, to strike. Incidentally, the manager of the La Forge project has more than 10,000 applications on hand for farm participation.

What Is to Be Done?

When the croppers walked out they didn't know where they were going and few of them knew just why they were striking. They had none other than general grievances there was no bitterness against the owners—just a physical protest against a situation which probably has existed far too long. But the remedy has yet to be found. The strikers, in fact, are the abject victims of a labor condition resulting from the introduction of machinery in the agricultural area.

But what is to be done? The owners say they harbor no resentment and will take back all but the most rebellious strikers on the old terms which is the best they can do under the circumstances. A few have returned. The majority, however show no signs of wanting to quit the fairly comfortable camps which they are now installed with at least shelter and sustaining food assured. March 1 is the usual date for signing cropper agreements but the day will probably pass without much ado. Meanwhile, the relief agencies of the counties and State are growing quite weary of the added load. Mississippi County, for instance, has a population of 16,000 and probably 10,000 of that number are now on relief or soon will be. The answer has not been found.

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Driven By Persecution, Not Lured By Promises, Say 'Croppers Who Left Missouri Plantations

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., June 9—"The story that the sharecroppers of Southeast Missouri were lured from the plantations by the chimerical hope of 40 acres, a horse and a mule is utterly unfounded," said Lorenzo J. Greene, assistant professor of history at Lincoln university, here this week after interviewing several groups of the sharecroppers during his second trip to the area in three weeks.

So also is the contention that the 'croppers did not want to work," or that "they just left for no good reason at all," he added.

Statements of this sort, Greene continued, not only malign the serious intentions of the 'croppers, but also seem to indicate that the persons making them have all too glibly swallowed the landlord's point of view as expressed by the newspapers.

"The sharecroppers' story was entirely different," Greene continued. "We talked to more than 200 of them, asking them pointedly whether they expected the traditional 'forty acres and a mule.'" All of them answered emphatically in the negative.

Said Walter Johnson, leader of the group at Sweet Home Baptist church "That's the landlord's story; nobody here believes the government is going to do anything like that." From the groups at Bethlehem Baptist church and at Matthews came similar replies.

The 'croppers left the plantations because conditions there had become intolerable, Greene declared. Their grievances were real. Some were driven off the land by the increasing mechanization of the farms.

Overproduction of cotton, with falling prices and its ensuing acreage reduction, has driven other hundreds from the land, he added.

The combined effect of mechanization, overproduction, and crop diversification upon the croppers, according to Greene, is either to drive them off the plantation entirely, or else to convert them into day



laborers.

In the latter case, they receive starvation wages, ranging from 50 cents to one dollar a day. At cotton-picking time this rate varies from 75 cents to $1.25 a hundred. "We can't live on seventy-five cents or a dollar a day," one sharecropper told Greene.

Even the white storekeeper at Matthews admitted voluntarily that it was impossible for a 'cropper to support himself and family upon a dollar a day. Realizing this, he told Greene he had virtually kept 40 persons at Matthews alive since January by furnishing them food.

'Croppers were also forced to leave because their families were too small. Albert Jackson, a tall, intelligent, and soft-spoken man, 40 years of age, told Greene he was forced to move from the plantation of J. C. Matthews because "I did not have a family and I've spent $80 going from place to place trying to get a job."

Women, whose husbands had died or had deserted them, were similarly evicted. A widow and her girl were put off a plantation owned by O. A. Reeves because as she related, "I was a widow and had no one to help me but my girl."

Another woman who lived on the Reeves plantation told a similar story: "Mr. Reeves," she said, "told me to move because I didn't have enough in the family to work."

Other 'croppers said they had been evicted because the landlord did not like the way they 'cooperated' on the plantation.

Preference of some planters for white tenants also caused the expulsion of Race 'croppers. Landlords from Mississippi, Tennessee, and other Southern states generally preferred Race members, but Missourians prefer whites.

As one sharecropper expressed it, "I was told to leave because the landlord told me he didn't want us kind of people." Frank Browning, the father of three children, stated that when the Central Life insurance company took over the plantation from the landlord, he was forced to move because the company "didn't want any colored people on their place; they (the company) wanted white people."

Support is lent the statements of the 'cropers by Miss Crawford, Jeanes suervisor of Pemiscot county, who informed Greene that the displacement of Race tenants by whites had caused the closing of Race schools in some localities.

At Bright City, she remarked, two of the three schools had closed. The school at Podidgeville was forced to close for a similar reason.

It is clear then, concluded Greene, that the sharecroppers did not quit the plantations without cause.

"Their grievances were real. They had found conditions on the plantations so unbearable that they had determined to suffer even to die as one said, rather than endure them in silence any longer."

Farmers Force Out Sharecroppers

Attempt to Get 138 Families in Butler County to Move Investigated by Federal Officials.

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo.—(Special)—Federal authorities are investigating efforts by the Butler County farmers to force sharecroppers and their families to leave their refuge southwest of here, where they had moved last week when ordered from Sweet Home Baptist Church in Wyatt.

6-23-39

The sharecroppers were urged to leave by a group of farmers who visited the camp. One of the farmers said, "Most of the sharecroppers are willing to move, but they have no place to go."

No Negroes had ever lived in that district previously and the camp is near a summer resort, complained the farmer's delegation to Sheriff Lennis Hoagg.

Six of the families in the refuge are white.

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BACK TO FARMS

Those Who Refuse to Return Are Put on Swampy Tract; Whitfield Stays In St. Louis

By John M. Kirkpatrick

SIKESTON, Mo. — (Exclusive) — This writer and his two companions, Arnold Walker and Sidney Williams, both representing the St. Louis Urban League, narrowly escaped being arrested while on a two-day tour of Southeast Missouri investigating the condition of the sharecroppers last week.

Sunday, January 15, the trio stopped on highway 61 near Lilbourn, Mo., where sharecroppers were being moved from the highway by state patrolmen, highway department trucks and other private vehicles. While talking to one of the sharecroppers one of the officers said, "Get the hell away from those n----s and let them load up those trucks." I informed the officer that I was representing a newspaper at the same time presenting my credentials and merely wanted to obtain information from a news angle. He didn't give a [illegible] who yo are, just get on away," the officer replied.

Report of Beating

It was revealed later that one of the sharecroppers had previously been brutally beaten by one of the patrolman and Tom Scott, whose official status could not be ascertained, because it was alleged by the officers that the accused man had flourished a knife on them while he was being searched. The identity of the beaten man could not be learned. One of the sharecroppers said that he was being held. Scott is a former deputy warden of the state penitentiary at Jefferson City, where his brutal tactics are well known. According to witnesses the man had been struck on the head and body with a stick and butt of a revolvtr.

Meanwhile as their leader, the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, remains in St. Louis, eager to return to aid his followers, but reluctant because of reported threats to his life by incensed landowners in Southeast Missouri, evicted sharecroppers are being moved in state highway trucks and private vehicles back to the farms from which they were evicted, and into a 40-acre swamp.

Those persons who steadfastly refuse to return to the farms are being taken to a swamp, a section of property, called Sugar Tree ridge owned by New Madrid county, near La Forge, Mo., where their belongings are "dumped." Ironically enough, the very same white landowners who forced the sharecroppers to move, are volunteering the use of their trucks to return them to their original homes. This information was obtained from the district headquarters of the state highway patrol at Sikeston, under whose supervision the highways are being cleared.

Few Camps Remaining

Late Sunday night, only about two or three scattered camps were still remaining. One of them was located on the outskirts of Sikeston, where a group of white and colored are mixed. Approximately 50 persons are huddled in an improvised tent reportedly furnished by a sympathizer of the movement. Many of them are children, several being under under five years of age. While the writer was talking to the group a white girl sharecropper was suddenly seized with an epilectic attack and it was necessary for several men to hold her arms as she struggled furiously to prevent her from unconsciously injuring nearby children.

Two other Negroes and three white men were arrested Sunday. Arthur Robinson, of Matthews, Mo. was held in the county jail at New Madrid, where a jailer told this writer that he was charged with refusing to assist in moving the sharecropper. The other Negro, the Rev. James Joseph Springer, of Sikeston, was arrested and held in the same jail. The jailer said Sheriff A. S. Stanley had brought him there and ordered that he be held until further notice. No formal charge was made, but upon further investigation the information was obtained from a state patrolman that the minister was impersonating a G-man, and urging the sharecroppers to resist the attempts of state officers to move their belongings from the highway.

To Be Released

The jailer offered the information that "they probably will be released in a few days." The whereabouts of the three white men could not be ascertained. They are reported to be members of the CIO, of which the Southern Tenant Farmers union is an affiliate, and are accused of inciting the sharecroppers.

Actual suffering among the sharecroppers has been alleviated considerably by truck loads of food from St. Louis and Kinloch, Mo. Members of the Elks lodge of St. Louis including Billy Mitchell, A. Oliver Thornton, exalted ruler; A. J. Bolton, and Benjamin Austin, were in Charleston, Mo., to supervise the distribution of the food among the sharecroppers. This was made increasingly difficult because the sharecroppers were no longer on the highway and distribution was restricted to needy persons.

The prevalent attitude among the sharecroppers seemed to be that "We are going to carry on." They admit that in being forced to vacate the highway they are being given their initial setback by losing a direct appeal to public sentiment. Few were willing to return to the farms, but preferred to take their other alternative of going to the county owned property which is said to be a temporary location until other arrangements are made.

Swampy Region

The property, about 40 acres, is located in a swampy region and appeared to this writer to be more dangerous to their health than their former location.

The allegation by white southeast Missouri paperst hat only seven per cent of these persons on the highways were actually evicted from the farms by landowners seemed to be somewhat of an exaggeration, however, it must be admitted investigation revealed that a large number had "gone with the crowd" with the expectation of receiving monetary and other consideration from the government.

Upon further investigation it was observed that, with few exceptions, practically all of the sharecroppers have implicit faith in the leadership of Whitfield, the recognized leader of the mixed Negro and white army. However, with his absence they are in doubt as to what is the next logical move to make.

It was also observed that Whitfield, whose family composed of 10 children and his wife, is equally disliked by the white landowners whose seeming feeling is that he has a selfish motive in the movement.

Will Tarver, a lieutenant of Whitfield, reported to this writer that he had been forced to leave his belongings, consisting of furniture and clothing, on highway 61 near Sikeston, to escape with his life when rumors arose that the white landowners were "out" to get him. He said they felt that if he and Whitfield could be "disposed of," the movement would eventually stop. Tarver has since taken refuge with a friend in a nearby town.

At this writing, no aid has been received from the Red Cross and the federal government by the sharecroppers. The bulk of their food has been obtained from St. Louis and vicinity and other interested individuals and organizations.

SHARECROPPER WOE LAID TO MACHINERY

Growth of Mechanization of Agriculture Found Basis for Plight in Cotton Belt

CHANGE IS TRACED TO 1929

Farm Methods Revised When Staple Dropped to 5 Cents a Pound After Crash

1-29-39

BY JOHN M. COLLINS
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW MADRID, Mo., Jan. 28.—A agents of the Department of Justice begin investigating the recent "sit-down" strike of share-croppers on highways in the Southeast and the Farm Security Administration rushes Federal aid to tenants alleged to be dispossessed, the fact is becoming increasingly clear that not the operations of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration but the growth in mechanization of agriculture is fundamentally behind the plight of the families that have been tilling the earth to grow cotton on shares. This is true all through the Southland.

While applications for rehabilitation loans or Federal grants from tenant families in four counties of the Missouri "bootheel" numbered 4,000 in the last month, it has been estimated officially that displacements in the entire South have been between 500,000 and 1,000,000 families.

Low prices of cotton, according to planters and other students of the situation, have brought about increased use of machinery in cotton culture. The operations of the Federal farm program simply have accelerated the movement, it is claimed.

Land Suited to Machines

The level and gently rolling land of Southeastern Missouri, the Mississippi and Arkansas River deltas, Southwestern Oklahoma and Texas lends itself to the use of tractors, two-row cultivators and even the radically new mechanical cotton picker. Mechanization of these farms began when cotton fell to the level of 5 cents a pound after the crash in 1929. It has continued apace as the individual acreage allotted for a farm under the AAA has contracted constantly. The purchase of tractors in those States has almost doubled in recent years and with them have been added the bigger cultivators and planters.

Where, according to a study by the research division of the Works Progress Administration, it required seventy hours of labor to produce an acre of cotton in the 1907-11 period, only fifty hours were necessary in the 1933-36 period. Costs of production thus have been reduced. An official study showed that it cost 12 cents net to produce a pound of lint cotton in the Piedmont section of the Atlantic Coastal States, where the old methods still are followed largely, while the net pound cost in Western Texas was only 8½ cents.

Planters expect that the mechanical cotton picker will be a factor to be reckoned with in the near future. The Rust Brothers of Memphis believe that they have solved the problem of cotton clogging between the bars of the stripper and that their salvage devices have eliminated virtually all losses of cotton on the ground.

Costs of Picking Compared

Where the machines have been tested under farm conditions, a government study shows, the cost of picking 100 pounds of cotton by machine is 11 cents; by hand, $1. These figures, however, do not take in the initial cost of the machine or the cost of depreciation, since the latter has not been determined.

To one who viewed the recent sharecropper "uprising" in this section, the plight of these people is pitiable. They insist that they have been removed from the crop-share status to that of day labor to make way for the machine and so cut production costs. As day laborers, they assert, they can earn only 75 cents to $1 a day up to 120 days a year; the rest of the time they must shift for themselves. Where the tenants can be displaced legally, the landowner obtains all the benefit payments of the AAA and by hiring labor only in the peak cropping seasons he saves himself the "furnish" of his croppers in the Winter and Spring.

The landowners, however, are caught in the toils of the same economic development. They assert that with six or eight men working as day labor they can farm a 200 to 500 acre plantation much more cheaply and easily than with from fifty to sixty tenants using work stock. Only with such methods, the plantation operators say, can they maintain production.

J. B. A. Johnson, owner of a 900-acre plantation in Jefferson County, Ark., for instance, says that by "streamlining" his cotton plantation with modern farm machinery last year he saved several thousand dollars. He said he plowed the land and planted the cotton with a cultivator and tractor, thinned it with a cotton-chopping machine and picked it with a mechanical picker.

"Machinery will be the salvation of the Southern planter," Mr. Johnson declared. "It solves the problem of undependable hand labor. It also provides a less expensive means of producing cotton, which is necessary if the South is to prosper.

"My land was plowed and prepared with a tractor at about one-half the cost of using mules. An even greater saving was obtained by chopping with a machine. The cotton was gathered at a saving of from $8 to $10 a bale. Just as an experiment, I gathered thirty bales with the picker at a cost of $4 a bale. It would have cost me from $10 to $14 a bale to have gathered the staple by hand."

Under government activities, Mr. Johnson declared, planters must find a cheaper method of producing cotton or quit business. Machinery, he believes, offers the only answer.

Wanderers Without Homes

What happens to the displaced tenants? Many of them are at present more or less homeless wanderers. Going into the towns, they find it difficult to get on the WPA, since they are classed as "agricultural labor." Hundreds of the families in Eastern Arkansas are reported to be drifting into the swamp lands and the cut-over wooded sections, where they are constructing rude cabins and are attempting to sell enough wood to keep themselves alive until the cropping season opens three months hence.

The Farm Security Administration, enjoined with the job of solving the problem, has an almost insurmountable task. It is attempting to make rehabilitation loans to likely prospects to set them up in farming in a small way, where land is available, but there is not nearly enough land to go around. To other families it is making outright grants which are reported to be $2 a person a month in this immediate section.

According to a member of the FSA staff, the philosophy of the FSA is toward the family-size farm operated with a minimum of outside labor and going into mechanization only in a limited way.

Two Lines of Practice

"At the same time," this official commented, "we are perfectly aware of this mechanization trend and have attempted to work out some farming practices along two general lines. These, we hope, may afford some foundation for adapting our philosophy to the large acreage mechanization philosophy if and when things reach the point where the family-size farm would be unable to compete. The two general trends I speak of are, first, our so-called group farms, where clients of the FSA are established in cooperative corporation farm enterprises or are set up as tenants of the FSA on large contiguous tracts of land. The second general attack is in the form of our community and cooperative service program.

"The community and cooperative service idea is that of enabling groups of farm families, either formally organized or acting merely as informal groups, to pool their resources so as to buy and use services and equipment which they could not as individual families afford to own or operate economically. Notable among these are the groups formed for the purchase and use of pure-bred herd sires.

"Another type is that of joint use of heavier farm equipment such as combines, seed-cleaning equipment, sheep-dipping outfits or, in some cases, tractors. The idea even goes over into the home, with several families joining together in the use of a canning outfit, a butchering outfit or, in some cases, a washing machine.

"Our last check in Missouri showed that we have made 700 loans totaling $156,000 to finance such equipment ventures. These 700 loans have provided for a variety of services for 5,626 Missouri farm families, none of which was in a position to buy or use the services or equipment included on an individual basis.

"Both this community and cooperative service program and the group farming ventures have been established partly for immediate benefits to the families concerned and partly as an attempt to work out methods whereby the relative small farm family may join with its neighboring families in such a manner to be able to compete with the much larger mechanized and individually owned farms."

In certain aspects this rapid spread of farm mechanization is the fundamental problem of agriculture. So far use of machinery has not solved entirely the problem of overhead agricultural costs, but it has increased the production of surplus cash crops. Many of the recent farm foreclosures have been caused by the operator overreaching himself in an effort to catch up with overhead, while adding to the surplus of agricultural labor.

Some students believe that a readjustment in the picture of what constitutes a farm—the land operated as a self-contained family unit, rather than as a commercial enterprise—eventually may be the solution.

MISSOURIANS RESENT INVASION OF NEGROES

Farmers Call Upon Officers To Force Removal

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo., June 21.—Two hundred negro sharecroppers and a half dozen white families, forced to move from the Sweet Home Baptist Church Community at Wyatt, Mississippi County, have located in Butler County, and as a result farmers in the area where the croppers have encamped have demanded that officers of the county do something about it.

The sharecroppers, remnant of the roadside demonstration staged Jan. 10 in Mississippi, New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties, were taken by trucks to a 90-acre tract of woodland bordering Little Black River, 15 miles southwest of Poplar Bluff, despite protests of the farmers that no negroes have ever lived in that section.

The tract on which the sharecroppers have settled was sold to a man named Claude Fisher, a former Mississippi County tenant farmer, by the Federal Land Bank of St. Louis.

County officers recall that about a year ago a local negro purchased some of the land and planned to move there, but on complaint of the white farmers he changed his plans.

Sheriff Lennie Hogg visited the camp yesterday.

"These people are scattered out through the woods," said the sheriff. "The negroes to whom I talked did not seem to know what it is all about or why they were there. They were told they would be taken to a new camp, so they just moved. None of them seemed to know where their food was coming from or what was in store for them in the future."

The land is hardly suitable for truck gardening. The brush will have to be cut off the land. About 28 acres, according to officers investigating the case, might be used after some clearing.

A delegation of white farmers waited on the negro sharecroppers yesterday and urged them to move peacefully. "Most of them were willing to move," said one of the farmers, "but they have no idea where they can go."

Reports were current that the tract of land had been purchased by the Missouri Agricultural Workers Council, a C. I. O. affiliate. Farmers who visited the camp said some of the croppers were wearing C. I. O. badges.

Sharecroppers Face Ouster



FROM New Madrid, Mo., landowners demanded that the Federal Bureau of Investigation look into the sharecropper demonstration in southeast Missouri where farm laborers have moved their families into makeshift camps besides two major highways. Resolutions adopted by the landowners contend that "more than 90 per cent of the demonstrators are not sharecroppers and many are not even residents of the State of Missouri." Here's view of one of the camaps.

Health Danger Claimed In Roadside Camps In Missouri

NEW MADRID, MO. Jan. 13.—(AP)—State police and health authorities moved swiftly tonight to end the demonstration of a weather-beaten army of more than 1,000 ditch-sitting sharecroppers who have been living in the open along southeast Missouri highways since Tuesday.

The sudden turn of events in the cotton croppers' dramatic protest against their poverty-stricken condition reached a climax when it was announced they would be moved out" if they were found to be a "menace to public health."

"I don't know where we would put them," said Superintendwent B. M. Casteel of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. "But if they threaten public health they must be moved somewhere."

Col. Casteel and Dr. Harry Parker, State health director, came into the area late today from the State capital at Jefferson City to take command of the situation. Adjt. Gen. Lewis M. Means plans to fly here early tomorrow.

The State Patrol completed a survey of farms in five counties to determine the number of homeless families that might be cared for if they are ordered to leave their miserable roadside camps.

Final orders of procedure were not expected before tomorrow morning.

The decision to send additional State troopers and health authorities to the area followed a conference of representatives of all State agencies concerned with the problem.

Meanwhile, the rain-soaked group hung on stubbornly in near freezing temperatures, with the small children apparnetly the only ones suffering from exposure. The men waded about in slush and mud in search of scrap wood to keep the campfires burning. Women gathered around steaming kettles measuring out the limited food supplies.

There has been no serious outbreak of sickness or disease in the 13 camps along 150 miles of highway.

State Patrol figures showed there were 1,307 "residents" in the camps today, an increase of 146 since yesterday.

Some of the families, their spirit broken by last night's snow and rain, loaded up their meager belongings and vanished but others immediately took their place.

Casteel said reports indicated many of the demonstrators were not actually sharecroppers, adding he believed most were cotton pickers from Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee who were out of jobs "as usual at the close of the picking season."

The same attitude was expressed by many land owners. They charged the unprecedented affair was "unwarranted" and "instigated by certain agitators" and demanded a Federal investigation

FARM EVICTIONS WILL BE PROBED

AAA May Withhold Benefits Practice Against Tenants Said To Be Nation-Wide

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The Agriculture Department threatened reprisals today against landowners who evict their tenants or reduce their status to day laborers. It ordered an immediate investigation at Sikeston, Mo., where it was alleged 700 families had been evicted.

Confidential reports to the department showed that the practice is nation-wide. No exact figures were available as to the number of tenants affected, but estimates ranged from 500,000 to 1,000,000 families.

"All benefit payments will be withheld from any landlord shown to have evicted tenants or reduced their status to day laborers for the purpose of obtaining a larger share of Agricultural Adjustment Administration benefits," it was announced officially.

Claude A. Wickard, AAA north central division director, ordered an immediate investigation of Farm Tenant Union charges that 1700 families had been ordered to leave their lands or become day laborers. The Farm Security Administration sent Virgil L. Bankston to Sikeston.

"Southeast Missouri always has been a trouble spot in relations between landlords and tenants," Wickard said. "We are determined to clean it up even if strong action is necessary."

The situation at Sikeston, where 500 families gathered in roadside tent camps as a protest against action by landlords, was said by FSA officials to be "somewhat typical" of many sections of the country.

Increased use of farm power machinery, AAA acreage reductions and the reluctance of some landlords to share Government benefit payments with tenants were said to be responsible for "wholesale" displacement of tenants, particularly in the South and Middle-West.

"It is an agricultural revolution comparable to the industrial revolution of the 17th Century in which millions of handcraft workers were displaced by the introduction of machinery and factory production methods," one official said.

Thousands of displaced tenants roaming the country seeking work are experiencing poverty not found in any city, reports to the FSA said The FSA is making direct grants averaging $20 a month to 100,000 such families and is seeking homes for many other thousands.

Increased use of power machinery has decreased the demand for farm labor. A survey made by the Texas A. & M. College showed the number of tractors on Texas farms increased from 9000 in 1920 to 99,000 in 1938 and almost doubled between 1936 and 1938.

The report estimates that each tractor replaced from five to nine families and that 76,000 Texas families were replaced by power machinery in the past two years.

Deluge Of Rain Thins Ranks Of Sharecroppers

Missouri Planters Seek Probe Of Activities, Accuse 'Agitators

NEW MADRID, MO., Jan. 12.—(AP)—Rain beat down tonight on sections of southeast Missouri, where 1,000 men, women and children were camped in the open in a demonstration which brought demands today from planters for a federal investigation.

The rain reduced the ranks of the ragged army of farm workers and their families, gathered along U. S. Highways 60 and 61 since Tuesday in a mass protest against their economic condition. Landowners claimed the demonstration was "unwarranted."

Along one stretch of road, where 250 persons had been gathered, only about 100 remained to brave the cold downpour behind the scant protection of quilts hung on sticks and other makeshift shelters. Their food virtually was exhausted.

Meeting at New Madrid, 24 planters demanded a "fair and impartial" inquiry, preferably by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, into the reasons for the demonstration.

A resolution, which they sent to state and Federal officials, contended the mass march to the highways was "instigated by certain agitators who are telling the people the Government will give them 40 acres of ground tools and teams."

"More than 90 per cent of the demonstrators are not share-croppers and many are not even residents of Missouri," the resolution said. It asserted most of the refugees were transient cotton-pickers who were seeking Government resettlement.

The landowners also urged an investigation of the activities of Hans Baasch, supervisor of the Farm Security Administration's resettlement project at La Forge, Mo., and Owen H. Whitfield, a negro minister and tenant at La Forge. Baasch declined comment.

There are 100 families on the 6,700-acre La Forge project, which was formally dedicated last month as a "laboratory" attempt to solve the social and economic problems of the sharecropper. Each family has a new home, outbuildings and farm equipment provided by the Government on long-term credit.

Many in the forlorn throngs along the highways, when asked what they hoped to gain from their demonstration, replied, "we want another La Forge."

The problem of food was the most serious facing the campers, most of whom are negroes. State officials said supplies were available at seven surplus commodity warehouses but personal application was necessary before distribution could be made to the needy.

Farm Security Administration officials, working under orders from Washington, were receiving applications for emergency subsistence grants, but Carl Ross, district supervisor, said it would require about 10 days for their approval

1200 ON HIGHWAY; EVICTED, THEY SAY

Sharecroppers And Families Sleep On Wet Ground Under Makeshift Tents Along 100 Miles Of Road; Their Landlords Deny Forcing Them Out

By Brooks Smith

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MATTHEWS, Mo., Jan. 12.—More and more tenant farmers, accompanied by bedraggled wives, pallid children, and, in some cases, by a scrawny farm animal, were taking up residence on the highway today where already some 1200 were camped over a distance of 100 miles.

Planters of this rich Mississippi River bottom area contended that the camping was a "demonstration" organized and pushed by a Congress of Industrial Organizations union. The tenants, or sharecroppers, contended that they had been evicted from land which they had been farming on shares, by the planters who wanted to take all the crop reduction payments of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and reduce them to day laborers. The tenants displayed eviction notices and said they had no place to live except on the highway.

This morning, the campers had black coffee and beans for breakfast. There was no abundance of these commodities for some of them had no food at all and were dependent on their fellows. During the night, few of the men had slept at all. There was no place for them to sleep except on the ground which was wet from an intermittent drizzling rain. They had constructed rude shelters for their wives and children, mainly thin quilts and blankets thrown across barbed wire fences as windbreaks. A few families were plutocrats. They had tents.

The tenants were clustered in groups of 10 to 50 from a little north of the Arkansas Border to a point on the river approximately opposite Cairo, Ill. Each group had a fire, fed with corn cobs and scraps of wood gathered from the roadside, and usually there was some sort of a makeshift stove on which the beans and the coffee were heated. I examined the food supplies in various groups. I found only beans, coffee, and potatoes, and these supplies were scant. Some families had enough for several days. The others hoped public relief of some sort would succor them.

Young Children

The men said they were waiting for "the Government to tell us what to do." They all denied that they were taking part in a "demonstration," contending that they had been ordered off the land by the planters and had no other place to go. I noticed many young children, some babies still at the breast. I noticed also a number of pregnant women.

Sanitary conditions were bad. The cold drizzle of last night added nothing to the campers' prospects of avoiding sickness.

State highway police patroled the road. They said that the campers were increasing rapidly in number and that their food supplies were dwindling very rapidly.

Many of the tenants belong to the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, a CIO affiliate, and union organizers were active in the camps. The organizers said that the planters, in addition to wanting to make the sharecroppers day laborers, had also evicted them because they had joined the union.

Planters in the area contended that they had not yet evicted tenants but had served notice that after Jan. 1 they would be on a day labor status. The change from tenant to day labor status in operation of the plantations was said to have been agreed on by 60 or 70 landlords as a policy all would adhere to in the future.

The change in status would mean that in the future tenants would not be eligible for Government benefit checks.

1700 FARMERS CAMP ON ROAD

They're Reported Evicted From Farms; Union Is Seeking Federal Aid

By United Press.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, appealed today for Federal aid for 1700 share-crop families whom he said were being evicted from their homes by plantation owners of Southeastern Missouri and were congregating on U. S. Highway 61 near Sikeston, Mo.

He said Gov. Lloyd C. Stark of Missouri had been asked to provide National Guard tents for temporary shelter and had sent messages to Dr. W. W. Alexander of the Farm Security Administration, and Col. F. C. Harrington, Works Progress Administration administrator, at Washington, urging them to "provide immediate assistance in the form of surplus commodities and rehabilitation of these people."

Mitchell was here planning a program for National Share-Croppers' Week in March. He said his information came from J. R. Butler, president of the union, an affiliate of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, at Memphis.

He said Butler had informed him that "hundreds of families are now out on the highway without shelter, food or adequate clothing."

"These families are being driven from their homes in Missouri by plantation owners who have a two-fold purpose," he said. "The first . . . is to force all families who belong to the union off the land; the second is to eliminate all sharecroppers and tenants who have been working for a share in the proceeds of the crop and to reduce them to casual day laborers so as to permit the uninterrupted introduction of tractor farming in that area of the cotton belt . . ."

Sharecropper To Hired Hand Protested By Demonstration

NEW MADRID, MO., Jan. 11.—(AP)—Huddled tonight around flickering roadside campfires, hundreds of southeast Missouri sharecropper families—demonstrating against a low economic status—determinedly faced probable rain or snow, shrinking food supplies and the danger of disease.

Many of the ragged army of more than 1,000 men, women and children, most of them negroes, were ill-prepared to face the predicted inclement weather.

Tents and improvised shelters of bed clothing offered little protection from the chill wind that ushered in their second night in the open air.

The march to the highways was called as a protest against the growing movement in the cotton country to abandon sharecropping in favor of the employment of day laborers. Leaders of the demonstration contended some landowners had evicted their renters to avoid sharing crop benefit payments with them.

In Washington, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, which sent an investigator to study the situation, said government payments might be withheld from landlords changing the status of their sharecroppers to that of day workers.

Various landowners in the "Bootheel" area blamed the situation on Missouri's tremendous gain in farm population in recent years, restricted cotton acreage, the shift from manual labor and mule power to modern mechanized farming, and losses suffered by some operators under the sharecropper system.

Many former 'croppers — "day hands" during the recent cotton season—were in the groups whose camps were scattered along 150 miles of U. S. Highways 60 and 61.

Will Travers, leader of a group at Hayti, said all of his followers had been day laborers on farms in Pemiscot County, "but we can't live on 70 cents a day."

Having nowhere to go, the workers needed the urging of such leaders as Owen H. Whitfield, negro farmer and part-time Baptist minister, and trekked with their meager possessions to the highways.

Sewing machines, dressers, tables and beds were stacked along the roads in disarray. Groups took turns sleeping in dilapidated automobiles. Others slept on corn shuck mattresses or blankets.

A few had oil-barrel stoves and the familiar rural pot-bellied iron stoves to provide warmth and heat for preparing meals. Some of the more provident brought cooked chickens with them, but fat pork, bread and coffee was the fare for the majority of the refugees.

Medical authorities, fearful of the danger of disease, expressed concern for the health of the farm families. Milk for infants was a pressing problem. William N. O'Brannon, New Madrid county health officer, reported, however, that he had heard of no serious disease.

LABOR CONDITIONS

PERSECUTING THE SHARECROPPERS

An unfortunate situation arose in Southeast Missouri recently when a large number of evicted sharecroppers chose to take up their abode on the highway where their plight could be dramatized on the stage where "the world goes by." The presence of these people on the highway was not a pleasant sight for state officials to look upon, and neither were the farmers who had caused the tenants to be in this predicament, pleased with the presence of fifteen hundred people on the highway, for their miserable condition was an indictment against the landowners that a wrong had been done to suffering humanity.

Of course, it only required a short time for these landlords and bosses to enlist the interest and help of the state bosses, including Dr. Harry Parker, State Health Commissioner, Superintendent Marvin B. Casteel of the State Highway Patrol, the Red Cross (for whose maintenance the public contributes each year) and the Missouri Relief Commission to "crush the spirit" of these people by forcing every mistreatment upon them which they thought that they could "get away with." In this they had the assistance of some of the race-baiting newspapers which have resorted to all kinds of lies in their news and editorial columns to help injure the victims of this wholesale eviction. And as a further means of adding insult to injury, someone patched up a false report that the sharecroppers were "rising against the farmers and an "arsenal" had been found in their camps and a "race riot" was barely nipped in the bud by confiscating these arms.

Everybody knows that this was a false report so far as it relates to up-risings or threatened riots in the community on the part of the evicted tenants. We have a suspicion, however, that the landowners, fully realizing the extent of their injury to these people, had advised the State Patrol to confiscate all weapons found in the camps so that if the situation did not please them they could swoop down on these poor, harmless people and massacre them in their defenseless state and get away with it.

To go to the homes of these people and commit the acts of search and seizure of their effects without a warrant of law, brands the State Highway Patrol as being unfit for the duties for which it was created to perform. The Constitution of the United States protects the homes (or shanties, if you please) of citizens from search and seizure of personal property without a warrant. But not only did these State Highway Patrolmen take all the guns, but in so doing they left the earmarks of pilfering in their wake. Their conduct appeared to be like that of soldiers who go through a town after its capture.

Everybody knows that as a rule a shotgun or some kind of firearm is a part of bread and butter of farmers. To arbitrarily confiscate what is really a person's means of livelihood when he is hungry and in dire need, merely adds insult to injury and can only serve to create bitterness in the hearts of those so exploited.

Of course it will be easy, with the forces of the State Highway Patrol, for these landowners, etc., to brush aside any grievances these people might have and solace themselves with the thought that "might makes right," but there comes a time when even a "worm will turn." There is already enough bitterness, hatred, bigotry and strife in this land. It is already fast developing that unless you are of my particular clan you become my enemy and live in fear of being attacked just as the people of the prehistoric age were.

Because of the tactics the State Highway Patrol used in this case, its uniform, will, in the eyes of many, be a signal to recall the dirty deal given the poor sharecroppers in New Madrid and Mississippi County in the state of Missouri in the year of our Lord, 1939.

TENANTS' CAMP IS BROKEN UP

State Policemen Return Protesting Farmers To Former Homes

1-20-39

By United Press.

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 20.—Four Federal agents were en route here today to investigate the breaking up of a camp of 500 sharecroppers by state policemen, who loaded them into trucks and returned them to the plantations from which many had been evicted.

Sheriff A. F. Stanley said the campers were mostly Negroes, that white residents had complained against them, and that a race riot had been threatened. The town of St. Johns, near the camp site, has for years displayed a sign on its main street reading:

"Negro don't let the sun set on your head here."

A representative of the Farm Security Administration at New Madrid telephoned his superiors in Washington that the removal of the campers constituted "forceful eviction." He said the sharecroppers had been held virtual prisoners all day yesterday. The FSA sent four investigators here immediately.

The sharecroppers had camped on a 40-acre tract called "Homeless Junction," along the New Madrid-Bird's Point spillway. They had moved there last week when they were driven off U. S. Highway 61, where they had first congregated in a demonstration against planters.

Some said they had been evicted from their shacks by the landowners, others said that landlords were refusing to give them the usual share of the crops they raised and were reducing them to day labor status, so that the landlords could get the entire Agricultural Adjustment Administration benefits from the land.

Sheriff Stanley and Prosecuting Atttorney J. V. Conran both denied that the campers had been "evicted forcefully."

"Most of them were being returned to homes they left when they started that silly demonstration," Conran said.

Residents 'Mad'

Stanley said: "The sharecroppers have not been abused in any way. Rather than that, I swore in several deputies to guard the camp against hostile citizens of St. Johns."

He said the residents of St. Johns had been "awfully mad" because the sharecroppers "virtually took control of a white school building and frightened away the teacher and pupils."

County trucks were used to haul the sharecroppers back to their plantation shacks.

The demonstration began with an assemblage of 1300 sharecroppers from the "boot heel" section of Southeastern Missouri. They spread out along the Federal highway for 150 miles, faring on the most meager rations and huddling beside campfires during sub-freezing weather.

After they had been camped five days, state police, on instructions from the Health Department, ordered them to disperse. They were declared a "menace to public health." More than half of them scattered back to their homes or to other regions, but the 500 moved to the spillway and re-camped.

Sharecroppers Are Disarmed

Missouri Sheriff Heeds Rumors Of Possible Violence

NEW MADRID, MO., Jan. 16.—(AP)—Sheriff A. F. Stanley said he and his deputies confiscated 48 shotguns rifles and pistols "as a precaution against a possible outbreak of violence" at a negro sharecropper camp north of here late today.

He said he visited the settlement where about 500 disgruntled sharecroppers were transferred as state police carried out orders to break up their week-long demonstration along the main highways, after receiving complaints from white families in the vicinity. The sheriff declared threatening reports had emanated from the camp. There have been no arrests.

The camp, only slightly less crude in appearance than the "squatter" colonies that dotted the rights-of-way, is located in a swamp area which was covered with 20 feet of water during the 1937 flood. The occupants have named it "Homeless Junction."

The last highway camp was emptied today.

Others who made up the original army of 1,300 which staged a mass exodus from their shanties to protest living and working conditions were either returned to their former cabins or had found new homes.

Around flickering campfires the sharecroppers, many of whom claim they were evicted by planters, discussed their next move toward getting "another La Forge"—a Government resettlement project accommodating 100 families just across the levee from the "concentration camp."

How long the present camp will last was debatable. Occupants declare they are "digging in" for a long stay if it becomes necessary to get what they are after.

Prosecuting Attorney J. V. Conran, of New Madrid County, expressed the sentiment of hundreds of planters when he openly blamed the La Forge project and the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for the unprecedented uprising.

"That was the cause of the trouble," he declared. "And we aren't going to do nothing for them."

Several union workers have been advised by state police and county authorities to stay out of the community.

Owen H. Whitfield, negro La Forge tenant and a leader of the demonstration, has been in St. Louis several days. He is reported to be working with union officials on a plan to be presented to Congress. Landowners have asked a Federal investigation of Whitfield and alleged "agitators" of the tenant strike.

Sharecroppers Hurried Home

Few Had Been Evicted, Assert Missouri Officials

NEW MADRID, MO., Jan. 19—(AP)—"Homeless Junction," refuge for 500 demonstrating southeast Missouri sharecroppers and farm laborers, was being rapidly vacated today under direction of Sheriff A. F. Stanley and Prosecuting Attorney J. V. Conran.

Six large county trucks were sent to Hayti inside the new Madrid floodway, as deputy sheriffs supervised loading of belongings of the sharecroppers and their families and returned them to the dilapidated houses they vacated when the demonstration along two major highways started on Tuesday of last week.

Prosecutor Conran said authorities had completed a survey in which homes were found for all inmates of "Homeless Junction," camp established when highway patrolmen, under orders from the State board of health, removed the demonstrators from along the highways.

"Most of them are being returned to the houses they left when they started this silly demonstration," said Conran. "The survey showed many of them, instead of being evicted as they and their followers claimed, left much of their property behind and in some cases left members of their families there to take care of it."

Conran said Sheriff Stanley guaranteed safety for the campers only until Saturday night of this week He said more than 100 residents of the vicinity where "Homeless Junction" is located, had complained to county authorities "in a way that we knew they meant business."

"We pleaded with the residents of that community to cause no trouble and pledged them we would do everything possible to solve the unfortunate situation by the end of the week," said Conran.

"The sheriff swore in several deputies to guard the camp after being advised the negro sharecroppers had virtually taken charge of a white school and had frightened the teacher and her pupils away."

Conran said the site of the "Homeless Junction" was in St. Johns township, and that no negro had ever resided in that township. That further complicated matters, he contended.

"We are hoping to have all the inmates of the camp moved back to their homes by tomorrow," the prosecuting attorney said.

RAIN, SNOW DEFIED BY SHARECROPPERS

Ragged 1,000 on Trek Seek Protection in Improvised Shelters and Tents

MILK PRESSING PROBLEM

Missouri Officials Warn of Disease Outbreak as 'Army' Camps Along Highways

NEW MADRID, Mo., Jan. 11 (AP).—Huddled tonight around flickering roadside campfires, hundreds of Southeast Missouri sharecropper families, demonstrating against a low economic status, defied probable rain or snow, shrinking food supplies and the danger of disease.

Many of the ragged army of more than 1,000 men, women and children, most of them Negroes, were ill-prepared to face the predicted inclement weather.

Tents and improvised shelters of bed clothing offered little protection from the chill wind which ushered in their second night in the open air.

The march to the highways was called as a protest against the growing movement in the cotton country to abandon sharecropping in favor of the employment of day laborers. Leaders of the demonstration contended that some landowners had evicted their renters to avoid sharing crop benefit payments with them.

Various landowners in the "boot-heel" area blamed the situation on Missouri's tremendous gain in farm population in recent years, restricted cotton acreage, the shift from manual labor and mule power to modern motorized farming, and losses suffered by some operators under the sharecropper system.

Many former croppers, "day hands" during the recent cotton season, were in the groups whose camps were scattered along 150 miles of United States Highways 60 and 61.

Will Travers, leader of a group at Hayti, said all of his followers had been day laborers on farms in Pemiscot County, "but we can't live on 75 cents a day."

Having nowhere to go, the workers heeded the urging of such leaders as Owen H. Whitfield, Negro farmer and part-time Baptist minister, and trekked with their meager possessions to the highways.

Sewing machines, dressers, tables and beds were stacked along the roads in disarray. Groups took turns sleeping in dilapidated automobiles. Others slept on corn-shuck mattresses or blankets.

A few had oil-barrel stoves and the familiar rural pot-bellied iron stoves to provide warmth and heat for preparing meals. Some of the more provident brought cooking chickens with them, but fat pork, bread and coffee was the fare for the majority of the refugees.

Medical authorities, fearful of the danger of disease, expressed concern for the health of the farm families. Milk for infants was a pressing problem.

William N. O'Brannon, New Madrid County health officer, reported, however, that he had heard of no serious disease.

500,000 Families Drifting

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 (AP).—Officials of the Farm Security Administration said today that a rapidly rising tide of migratory farm labor threatens to add millions of dollars annually to public relief needs.

They estimated that more than 500,000 rural families are drifting about over the country searching for whatever seasonal work they can find.

The plight of these families, described as the "victims" of increasing mechanization of agriculture and of governmental crop adjustment programs, will be laid before Congress, officials said, when the question of rural relief funds come up for consideration.

A high FSA official asserted that the problem might easily engender widespread rural disturbances and develop into "an agricultural revolution." In recent months there have been many demonstrations, he said, of these jobless families. The congregation of several hundred families in Southeast Missouri yesterday to protest against reported evictions from cotton farms was cited as an example.

The rural relief problem, officials said, is being complicated by a shift of many landowners from a sharecropper system, under which the tenant shares in proceeds of the farm, to a system of employing day labor.

Senator Truman of Missouri said he would urge an amendment to the farm act to prevent eviction of sharecroppers. He will also urge the Works Progress Administration to "cooperate in the relief situation" in Southeastern Missouri.

Wallace Plans Action

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Payments under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will be withheld from landlords who evict tenants or force them to become hired men, contrary to the stipulations of the act, Secretary Wallace said today when asked at a press conference about the plight of sharecroppers in Southeastern Missouri.

He emphasized that he did not mean the landlords there had violated the act, saying he had no official information and would have to await action by the county committees.

Secretary Wallace explained that under the act payments are made both to landlords and to sharecroppers, but it is provided that landlords cannot get during the year the payment normallly going to the tenant if they evict him or change his status to hired man. The landlord further undertakes not to reduce the number of sharecroppers during the year for which he gets an AAA payment.

The Secretary attributed the Missouri situation fundamentally to the growing prevalence of rubber-tired tractors in the South, which caused a steady pressure to farm with hired men instead of tenants as more efficient. He attributed it also to the "terrific" pressure of population on the land increasing the number of tenants looking for and. Asked whether his acreage curtailment policy also helped cause the trouble, he said he did not know.

On another side Farm Security, he said, could care for the needy tenants, either through loans or outright grants, and it remained to be seen how far this need be done.

He added that he found conditions generally improving, he explained, for there are "not as many sharecroppers on the road now as there were before."

AGRICULTURE- 1939
LABOR CONDITIONS

MISSOURI'S EX-SHARECROPPERS

Whatever may be the whole truth about the evicted sharecroppers now camping on Missouri roadsides, it should be obvious that a thorough inquiry is in order and that immediate relief should be given to the roadside campers. A tragic situation exists that cannot be tolerated.

It is known that Missouri is not the first State in which tenants and sharecroppers have been dispossessed by landowners seeking to obtain maximum benefits under AAA. There have been reports in Alabama, for example, and some cases are known, that tenants and sharecroppers have been placed on a strictly labor basis so that benefit payments would go to landowners instead of to tenants.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch charges that the blame for the present situation "rests upon Secretary Wallace and his co-administrators of the crop control project for not having provided legal protection for these people. The AAA has failed to face up to the political danger of offending the landowners by safeguarding the interests of the sharecroppers. There is not much danger in offending the sharecroppers in the Cotton Belt, because these people usually don't vote."

The Post-Dispatch is undoubtedly technically correct in its charge, but the basic reasons for the unhappy condition now existing go much deeper. The tenant and sharecropper have seldom had protection of any kind. They have much more under the AAA than they have heretofore known. Nevertheless, their condition remains deplorable; will, in fact, always be deplorable while the present system exists.

Naturally the whole problem of absentee-ownership cannot be settled overnight. Neither can the farm problem itself. But the best attack upon such conditions as are now dramatically in focus in Missouri is by way of reducing the number of tenants and sharecroppers. Other countries have succeeded in virtually abolishing the system. With the end of tenancy will come the end of the bleak poverty and misery that from time to time grow so frightful as to demand the front page. The Missouri problem is another example of the evils of tenancy.

Sharecroppers Slow To Move Out Of Camps

Missouri State Police Begin Dispersal Of Crowds; No Violence

NEW MADRID, MO., Jan. 14.—(AP)—Southeast Missouri's bedraggled army of road-camping sharecroppers and their families gave way slowly and reluctantly today before the efforts of State highway patrolmen to end their dramatic protest against a low economic status.

Acting on orders of Dr. Harry Parker, State health commissioner, who said the situation constituted "a menace to public health," the patrol began breaking up the crude camps that have dotted 150 miles of highways in the "bootheel" cotton country since Tuesday.

The 1,300 men, women and children, who had endured inclement weather, lack of food and miserable living conditions in their make-shift highway hovels, complied stubbornly with the officers' command to "get packing in a hurry."

By nightfall only three of the 13 groups had been disbanded and it appeared the job of ending the demonstration would take another day or two. The patrol had hoped that once the first groups were broken up the others would leave voluntarily.

State police planned to work through the night moving the demonstrators to their former homes, if possible, otherwise to temporary camps.

There were no reports of violence or disorder.

However, at Memphis, H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, said he had been informed the Missouri police had escorted J. R. Butler, president of the CIO affiliate, and two organizers to the State line and had told them "to get out and stay out."

Earlier in the day, Capt. A. D. Sheppard, of the State Patrol, said Butler had conferred with him at Sikeston and had promised full cooperation in moving the sharecroppers back to their homes. He said Butler then left, presumably for Memphis.

In St. Louis, Owen H. Whitfield, negro minister and tenant on the government rehabilitation project at La Forge, Mo., declared the ponc "probably will have to use force" before they can clear the highways Whitfield had urged the mass demonstration.

Told that the camps were ordered broken up as "a menace to public health," Whitfield said:

"Do you think those shacks m people have been living in are an healthier? If they are sent back t the conditions from which they fled the same situation inevitably will oc cur again."

Landowners have demanded a Federal investigation of the activities o Whitfield and of Hans Baasch, supervisor of the La Forge project Baasch denied today he had any connection with the mass protest.

Robert K. Ryland, State director of the National Emergency Council, returning to St. Louis after making an inspection of the area, said he believed the demonstration was "fostered by subversive elements."

He said he had talked to "dozens" of negroes and all were waiting for Uncle Sam to give them a white house with a porch, a barn, well and a span of mules." None of those questioned, he said, had been evicted from their tenancies.

Negro Pastor Pushes Fight In Missouri

Conditions Affect 1,000 Families; Seek WPA, Relief Aid

OWNERS ADAMANT

Families Forced To Live On 75 Cents A Day In Certain Areas

NEW MADRID, Mo., Jan.—Orphans of the American Agricultural Administration, nearly 1000 sharecroppers' families in Southeastern Missouri, have given a dramatic demonstration of their protest against the condition of poverty and consequent destitution in which they have been held by farm owners.

The question now raised by sympathizers the country over "What is the WPA and relief authorities going to do about the bitterly recalcitrant heads of families who have refused to return to their hovels on the farms as day laborers at 75 cents a day. The arrangements included about 100 cars of cotton, it is said.

Of the 1000 families who took to the highways a few days ago in a sweeping protest against these inhuman conditions—the greatest proportion were Negroes.

Shift In Status

Under bleak skies and chilling winds, with more inclement weather threatening, men, women and tiny babes were bundled off into the March of Protest against the shift in their status to that of day laborers. They pitched camp on frozen ground beneath poorly constructed shelter of tents which were poor protection against the elements. A miserable supply of food for each family, the pressing need of milk for undernourished children, and some few with oil-barreled stoves and the rural pot-bellied stoves to provide feeble warmth for half-clad bodies and cook rations for empty stomachs. Coverings were tattered pieces of blankets and ragged coats; their beds, shuck mattresses.

Negro Preacher Leader

Owen H. Whitfield, Negro farmer and part-time Baptist minister, urged his people to "take up their beds and walk" with the rest of their misery-ridden fellow sharecroppers. And they heeded the call in a body.

"We can't live on 75 cents a day," declared Will Travers, leader of a group from Hayti, Mo.

Meanwhile, medical authorities were becoming greatly concerned about the possible epidemic of disease spreading among these people.

Whitfield asked in reply to this: "Do they think those shacks these people live in are healthier?" They were willing to go "anywhere they could get something to live on!"

Latest reports have it that the executive committee of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union asked Attorney General Frank Cummings in a telegram to "see that civil liberties of sharecroppers are protected."

Cite Police Threats"

The committee charged that Missouri State Police and local police used threats and out-and-out brutality, and other forms of intimidation to remove the sharecropper families from highways where they have now been parked for a week in what they call their "eviction" from the farms.

Many of the families had been taken to nearby towns temporarily, and some returned to their "owners" on the day—labor status, awaiting an early adjustment. Others have been forcibly driven off the highways. But many still remain with that "come Hell or high-water" determination.

The march to the highways was said to be called as a protest against the growing movement in the cotton country to abandon sharecropping in favor of the employment of day labor.

Forcibly Ejected

Many declare they were forcibly evicted by the landlord.

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has been asked to explain his failure to provide safeguards against just such a situation as this.

His words are biting down into the hearts of even those who can't understand the phraseology that there is nothing in the law to prevent the landowner from changing the status of his sharecroppers to that of day laborers for the "single reason of being able to keep the Government 'benefit' for themselves.

No Long-Range Solution

It has been said before by those "in the know" that the crop control legislation as it now stands, does not offer any long-range solution to the agricultural problem. In fact, its distressing outcome is being forced too-impressively upon the conscience of people all over the country. But especially in that locality, it has been stated.

Sharecroppers Hurried Home

Few Had Been Evicted, Assert Missouri Officials

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Prosecutor Conran said authorities had completed a survey in which homes were found for all inmates of "Homeless Junction," camp established

ed when highway patrolmen, under orders from the State board of health, removed the demonstrators from along the highways.

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Conran said the site of the "Homeless Junction" was in St. Johns township, and that no negro had ever resided in that township. That further complicated matters, he contended.

"We are hoping to have all the inmates of the camp moved back to their homes by tomorrow," the prosecuting attorney said.

SHARE CROPPERS IN NEW LOCATION

Missouri Tenants' Camp Is Moved From Highway

NEW MADRID, Mo.— (AP) —The highways nearly cleared of demonstrating sharecroppers, authorities turned today to a newly-established camp inside a spillway which was inundated during the floods two years ago.

Only one of the 13 large camps set up seven days ago along two major Southeast Missouri highways in protest against a low economic status remained. State highway patrolmen expected to have the rest of the men, women and children moved by nightfall.

Nearly 500 Negroes were taken to the 40-acre spillway tract yesterday in state trucks and lost no time in setting up a new camp. Tents, mostly of quilts and blankets or old canvas, were pitched in rows, resembling the orderliness of an army camp. An American flag was run up on a pole at the end of the rows of tents.

The tenant farmers called their new site "the Homeless Junction," but declared it nevertheless was better than living on the highway.

There were no reports of violence or disorder in the new camp. Farmers continued to do their own policing and the groups also have their own "councils."

Some sharecroppers, mostly white, returned to the farms where they previously had lived after landowners agreed to take them back.

The present campsite is a swampy river bottom spot, just inside the setback levee and about six miles east of the federal government's rehabilitation project at La Forge, Mo.

SOME THIRTEEN HUNDRED STEP-CHILDREN of King Cotton and the AAA pitched their dreary camps last week along U. S. Routes 60 and 61 in Missouri in one of the most dramatic demonstrations in the long history of Southern poverty. Under the leadership of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, men, women, and children, with their pathetic belongings and ragged clothes, hovered over open fires in winter weather along 150 miles of the public highway in an attempt to show the country the desperate situation of a large sector of Southern farm labor. Their plight is the direct responsibility of the federal government. Landlords unwilling to share with their tenants the benefits paid for acreage reduction have shifted their "hands" from a sharecropping to a day-labor basis; there has also been an increase in mechanization. As a result, within the past two or three years thousands of farm families have been evicted from the tumble-down shacks they once called home. On the plea of protecting the public health, local and state authorities removed the peaceful but stubborn demonstrators from the public view. Some have been returned to their former homes; others are being temporarily housed in public buildings in the section. Meanwhile, landowners are mumbling threats at "agitators" and calling for a federal investigation. The principal agitators in this case are hunger and despair; and certainly a federal investigation by the AAA or the Farm Security Administration or both is in order. The Tenant Farmers' Union is demanding that Congress appropriate $125,000,000 specifically for the relief of Southern farm labor. The present policy of solving the problem by ignoring it can only be disastrous.

500 SHARECROPPERS GATHER IN NEW CAMP

Missouri Highways Cleared—Red Incitation Is Seen

NEW MADRID, Mo., Jan. 16 (AP).—Southeast Missouri highways were entirely cleared today of the more than 1,300 sharecroppers who began a demonstration nearly a week ago protesting their economic situation.

The last of the thirteen major camps was disbanded this morning by the State highway patrol.

Dr. T. L. Waddell, district health officer, sent supervisors to a camp of 500 of the demonstrators in the Birds Point-New Madrid spillway to enforce stringent sanitary regulations.

This camp was set up last night. Tents, mostly of quilts and blankets or old canvas, were pitched in rows. An American flag was run up on a pole.

The tenant farmers called their new site "The Homeless Junction," but declared it nevertheless was better than living on the highway.

Men again sat about campfires last night singing and strumming their guitars, while the women prepared supper. One family set up an old battery radio set.

Some of the sharecroppers, mostly white persons, returned to the farms where they previously had lived after landowners agreed to take them back.

The present campsite is a swampy river bottom spot, just inside the setback levee and about six miles east of the Federal Government's rehabilitation project at La Forge Mo.

Robert K. Ryland, State director of the National Emergency Council, said he believed the demonstration was "fostered by subversive elements."

Negroes he had talked to, he said, were waiting for "Uncle Sam to give them a white house with a porch, a barn, well and a span of mules."

MOVE TO END TREK BY SHARECROPPERS

Missouri State Police and Health Officials to Take Army Off Roads Today

IN DOUBT ON HOW TO ACT

Rain and Snow Add to Misery of Demonstrators—Children Suffering the Most

NEW MADRID, Mo., Jan. 13 (AP).—State police and health authorities moved swiftly tonight to end the demonstration of a weather beaten army of more than 1,000 sharecroppers who have been living in the open along Southeast Missouri highways since Tuesday.

The sudden turn of events in the dramatic protest against poverty-stricken conditions reached a climax when it was announced that the sharecroppers would be "moved out" if they were found to be a "menace to public health."

"I don't know where we would put them," said B. M. Casteel, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway patrol. "But if they threaten public health they must be moved somewhere."

Colonel Casteel and Dr. Harry Parker, State Health Director, came into the area late in the day from the State Capital at Jefferson City to take command of the situation. Adjutant General Lewis M. Means plans to fly here early tomorrow.

The State patrol completed a survey of farms in five counties to determine the number of homeless families that might be cared for if they are ordered to leave their miserable roadside camps.

Final orders on procedure were not expected before tomorrow morning.

The decision to send more State troopers and health authorities to the area followed a conference of representatives of all State agencies concerned with the problem.

Meanwhile, the rain-soaked group hung on stubbornly in temperatures near freezing, but the small children apparently were the only ones suffering from exposure. The men waded about in slush and mud in search of wood to keep the campfires burning. Women gathered around steaming kettles, measuring out the limited food supplies.

There has been no serious outbreak of sickness or disease in the thirteen camps along 150 miles of highway.

State patrol figures showed that there were 1,307 "residents" in the camps today, an increase of 146 since yesterday.

Some of the families, their spirit broken by last night's snow and rain, loaded up their meager belongings, and vanished but others immediately took their place.

Superintendent Casteel said reports indicated that many of the demonstrators were not actually sharecroppers. He believed, he added, that most of them were cotton pickers from Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee who were out of a job "as usual at the close of the picking season."

The same attitude was expressed by many land owners. They charged that the unprecedented affair was "unwarranted," and "instigated by certain agitators" and demanded a Federal investigation.

S.E. MISSOURI EVICTED SHARECROPPERS IN NEW APPEAL FOR AID

Plight Growing More Desperate Every Day

Harviell, Mo.
Aug. 1, 1939.

To the St. Louis Argus
St. Louis, Missouri
Dear Sirs:

We, the evicted sharecroppers of South East Missouri on highways 60 and 61, have the desire to interview some of the Argus reporters. We feel sure that if something isn't done in the near future in order that we can be maintained (some food to exist upon) we will be forced to walk out in another so-called "demonstration" for our condition has grown most pitiful. Our wives and children are crying for bread and we are unable to get jobs, and, of course, have been in need for some time.

It is not our desire to make such a demonstration. We are opposed to such but we will not suffer and die without letting the outside world know of our condition. We are all farmers and fully believe in tilling the soil. We would love to derive living wages from our labors. We further say that we all are American born citizens and many of us have fought in the different wars to uphold the good old American ideals and to uphold the "Star Spangled Banner." I, myself, am a World War veteran. I do feel, and shall always feel, that we have a right to the many good things to be enjoyed in this country, especially since we are known to be willing to work. I do not have words to express my heart's desire in such a bitter case.

On January 10, 11 and 12 we were forced to the highway because we did not have sufficient funds to rent houses or rooms in which to put our families. We were given many notices to vacate the premises which we were occupying at that time. In order to keep peace and not have any trouble with our landlords we moved to the high-ways, after going to the many different courthouses to protest against the rulings of the landlords' eviction notices. We felt sure that the notices were not legal due to the fact that some were given after 9 o'clock at night and bore no signature, name or office. I went to the court house at Charleston, Mo., to the prosecuting attorney, showing my eviction notice. However, he claimed that it was a legal notice and that I had plenty of time, which was about twelve days, to give up possesion.

All of us feel that we are citizens of Missouri since we have been in this state from two to thirty years.

As I stated above we desire an interview with the St. Louis Argus reporters at the very earliest date.

Very truly yours,

P. S. The Federal Bureau of Investigation revealed the fact that we, as sharecroppers and of the 60 and 61 highway demonstration, had in no wise violated any statute, due to the fact that we were under economical slavery. I wish while calling this to your attention to impress upon the minds of the nation that it is our only intention to be in keeping with American ideals, and that we shall endeavor to uphold the Constitution of the United States as well as our constituional rights.

Plight of Missouri Sharecroppers—

Harviel, Mo.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I suppose you still have in mind the plight of the Missouri sharecroppers on Highway 60 and 61 last January.

Since the demonstration the croppers have been on the move. The Highway Patrol took them off the highway and stuck them in old churches, houses, on river levees and any place they could drop them. All local relief was denied them and the planters would not give them any kind of work.

A group of five poeple that live in St. Louis, Mo., got together and gave the croppers enough money to buy a 93-acre tract of land located in Butler County, Mo. This land was bought so as the croppers could make a camp so the planters and police would leave them alone.

But it sems that the planters are still after our

But it seems that the planters are still after our our families. We are also refused any kind of relief or medical aid or county cooperation.

I wonder if they want these people to starve. These people are Americans and they are not homeless of any fault of their own.

WILLIAM R. FISCHER,
President, Missouri Agricultural Workers' Council.

Promise U. S. Aid To Mo. 'Croppers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—It was learned here this week that aid is in prospect for the indigent displaced sharecroppers of Southeastern Missouri. Dr. W. Alexander, Farm Security Administrator reportedly promised officials of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union that his agency would make an early investigation and provide whatever financial aid it could for those found in need.

H. L. Mitchell of Memphis (white) and F. R. Betton, STFU president and vice president, respectively, told Dr. Alexander that approximately 15,000 former sharecroppers in Southeastern Missouri were without employment and in need, that in a makeshift camp near Poplar Bluff, Mo., 84 displaced tenant families faced "death from starvation and exposure this winter."

Betton told the administrator that a shift to machinery was causing displacement of thousands of tenants and sharecroppers from cotton plantations not only in Missouri but in other Southern states.

U. S. AID ASKED TO SAVE LIVES OF 400 'CROPPERS

Courier-Pittsburgh, Pa. 11-18-39

One Hundred and Seventy-Five Children Reported in Group Facing Death from Starvation in Missouri.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 16.—The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union last week asked the Federal government to aid 400 evicted sharecroppers living hand-to-mouth in a colony of "pole-and barrel-stave" shacks in southeast Missouri.

J. R. Butler, white president of the union, said the situation in the colony near Poplar Bluff, Mo., had become acute and "something must be done at once to give these sharecroppers relief, or they'll die this winter."

He appealed to Dr. W. W. Alexander, Federal Administrator of the Farm Security Administration, saying the sharecroppers "slowly but surely are dying."

400 ARE STARVING; 175 ARE CHILDREN

"I have made a thorough investigation of the situation," Mr. Butler said. "There are 400 persons, 175 of them children, facing starvation and death from exposure in make-shift shelters.

"Some of the shacks are made out of old tin cans. Others are of pole and barrel staves. They are covered with pieces of tin. Some are without walls. Sheets and blankets have been hung up to keep out the wind.

"These families have had no relief since August. The land they are living on is unproductive."

The sharecroppers are said to be remnants of the 1500 cotton field workers who last year made a "hunger march" when they were evicted from the land which they had been farming on shares.

400 Evicted 'Croppers Face Starvation In Tented Camp

Daily World (1-17-39 Atlanta, Ga.

MEMPHIS—(SNS)—Denied Federal relief by local relief set-ups dominated by white planters, four hundred men, women and children living in a barrel-stave shack colony near Polar Bluff, Mo., are facing death by exposure and starvation, it was learned this week. The threatened colony includes 175 children living in makeshift shelters.

The colony is made up of remnants for weeks last January when they had been evicted from the land they had been farming on shares. The leader of the colony is Owen R. Whitfield, Negro preacher and labor organizer.

DENIED RELIEF

Although entitled to federal relief they have been denied this aid because local relief committees are dominated by rich planters who bitterly oppose relief benefits for croppers and farm laborers on the

175 Children Now Living In Makeshift Shelters

grounds that federal aid "would spoil them" and make it difficult for planters to obtain cheap labor during the busy season. CIO unions in St. Louis bought and gave them ninety - three acres of land, but it is unsuitable for farming.

Some of the shacks these dispossessed croppers live in are made out of tin cans, others are of poles and barrel staves, covered with pieces of tin. Some are without walls. Sheets and blankets have been hung up to keep out the wintry winds.

Their existence is most precarious.

Food contributions from sympathizers, chiefly impoverished groups in St. Louis provide them with less than enough to sustain life. The evidences of starvation are everywhere in the little colony.

"JUST PLAIN HUNGRY"

One woman, asked how she was feeling, replied "not so good." Questioned further, she said: "To tell the truth, I'm just plain hungry. It seems to me I ain't had nothing but corn grits to eat now for eight months."

In addition to their sufferings from hunger and exposure, the Negro members of the little colony now face the threat of local peace officers. Sheriff M. L. Hogg has voiced objections to the colony on the grounds that "it is in part of the county, which has never had Negroes." "The local whites don't like it," he added.

Aid For Cotton Sharecroppers Sought By Missouri Landowners

Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tenn. 12-13-39

By The As:

CHARLESTON, Mo., Dec. 12.—A drive will be started soon, landowners in this section said today seeking to have Congress enact a law which will make it impossible for the landowner or tenant to receive the sharecroppers' allotment of Government benefits unless he actually helped make the cotton crop.

The move followed a meeting of 100 Mississippi County landowners here last night seeking a solution of what they believe will be a "wholesale displacement" of sharecropper families after the first of the year.

May Be Evicted

Discussing the plight of the sharecropper, several speakers told the meeting that at least 200 families in Mississippi County may be evicted by new tenants and small landowners.

A migration of cotton pickers from the South and laborers who came here on timber clearing jobs and remained here were two of the reasons advanced for the influx but a resolution also was adopted placing a major portion of the blame on the "ineffectiveness of the labor provision of the Cotton Control Law."

Seek Share In Payments

"We believe that cotton labor, under the reduced acreage program, is entitled to share in the Government payments," the resolution stated, "and must be permitted to do so if we desire to attain social peace and stability."

Last January about 1300 men women and children, mostly negroes, camped along the major highways in Mississippi County for a week in protest against their low economic status.

Five Jersey Mob Victims Ready To Return To South

NEW YORK —(SNS)—Arrangements were completed this week providing passage home for five of the seven migratory farm workers who were brutally assaulted last August near Cranberry, New Jersey, officials of the NAACP announced.

The workers who, it is understood, will leave New Jersey sometime this week for their homes in the South include: James Jordan 22, Quincy, Florida; William Moton 41, Greensboro, Alabama; Louis Streeter, 18, and Ode Street, 24, both of Augusta, Georgia; Monroe Holmes, 24, will go to his home in

Georgians Who Were Painted To Remain for Week

Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Preston, of Coleman, Georgia, both of whom were stripped and painted with white paint when the attack took place, will remain in New Jersey until the end of the week, it was said, in order to fill speaking engagements.

The association's action followed the freeing of eight white persons in New Brunswick, in connection with the attack. State Proescutor Charles Morris, who took charge of the state's action against the eight white defendants charged with attacking the workers told the NAACP that he would continue his investigation.

The eight white mobbists were given suspended sentences of from two to three years each and placed on parole for three years, last week, by Judge Adrain Lyon in Middlesex County Courthouse.

A North Carolina Atrocity

(From The Montgomery Advertiser)

The following advertisement from The Yanceyville, (N. C. Caswell Messenger, was quoted by The Chapel Hill Weekly, a critical journal published in the home town of the University of North Carolina.

Daily World

NOTICE—I forbid any one to hire or harbor Herman Miles, colored, during the year 1939. A. P. Dabbs, Route 1, Yanceyville.

12-19-39

This, says The Baltimore Evening Sun, is the explanation which the editor of The Chapel Hill Weekly took the trouble to find:

Atlanta, Ga.

"To satisfy my curiosity I wrote to a friend of mine in Yanceyville, who frequents the county offices and the law courts and knows about almost everything that goes on in Caswell county, and asked him what it meant. He replies that such advertisements are still employed to 'put the fear of God into Negroes and ignorant white folks.'

"Without taking the time and trouble to hunt through the revisal of North Carolina statutes," he writes, "I think I am correct in telling you that the notice you quote is in accord with an archaic statute, yet in the books, although declared unconstitutional maybe several times, as smacking of peonage or slavery and abridging the liberties of human beings.

"Many of our magistrates still hold it is good law and zealously support its use in upholding the contentions of landlords who resent any dissatisfactions on the part of tenants to whom they have advanced as much as 50 cents for rations on which to make a crop. Few landlords will risk incurring the wrath of some good, Christian, Democratic freeholder by hiring his hand after he has warned us not to. As long as folks don't know the statute is unconstitutional it can't be made to serve its intended purpose. The Caswell legislator who would try to take that law off the books would lose many votes."

To the best of our knowledge and belief there is no similar law in Alabama. But there are numerous Alabamians nevertheless who are capable of assuming that there is such a law, and so acting accordingly.

AGRICULTURE - 1939
LABOR CONDITIONS

National Sharecroppers Week Set For This Month

Supported By Labor Leaders

Intended to Aid Southern Tenant Farmers Union

NEW YORK — (ANP) Sever noted labor leaders have joined with 33 other prominent Americans in sponsoring National Sharecroppers week, it was announced in New York last week by Miss Harriet Young, secretary of the movement. Observance of the week is intended to bring support to the Southern Tenant Farmers union and its program, she said.

Among the labor leaders sponsoring the week are A. Philip Randolph of Ney York, president of the International Brotherhood of Pullman Porters; Allan S. Haywood, New York, regional director of the Congress of Industrial organizations; and John H. Bosch, Minneapolis, president of the National Farm Holiday association.

In a special statement to the press last week, Miss Young said that the week would be observed from coast to coast with special meeting arranged to "tell the story of the sharecroppers to America." The week this year assumes important proportions declared Miss Young, "because the progress of mechanized cotton farming has meant the eviction of thousands of sharecroppers from their wretched hovels."

Other sponsors of the week which will be held March 24 to 31 are T Arnold Hill, New York, national secretary of the Urban League; Prof. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk university and Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P.

Sharecroppers Week, Mar. 24-31

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AGRICULTURE- 1939
LABOR CONDITIONS

SOUTH CAROLINA

COTTON PICKERS NEEDED

Up and down the highways in South Carolina are seen hundreds of acres of cotton farms "white" with the fleecy staple. The harvest is ripe and the yaborers are few. Farmers need cotton pickers.

Many farmers are offering $1.00 a day and dinner to people who will come and pick cotton. There are many Negroes banging around the streets who would profit by this offer if they would leave the city "hangouts" for a few weeks go on the farms and help pick the cotton before it is damaged by bad weather. Go to the country hang a bag on your shoulders, help gather the cotton and enjoy a good dinner.

WPA WORKERS ARE URGED TO PICK COTTON

No Cotton, No Food Says Welfare Commission Of Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Oct. 6.—Faced with threats of being dropped from WPA rolls if they refuse private employment, hundreds of relief workers are turning to cotton picking during the season. Some even say that they can make more picking cotton than they can on WPA.

WPA officials have promised that all who accept private employment voluntarily will be recertified just as soon as the cotton picking season is over.

O. B. Ellis, county commissioner of the Memphis Welfare commission, announced however this week, "That any able-bodied person who refuses cotton picking work . . . gets no groceries from the M.W.C. Those who are unable to pick enough cotton to buy food, get partial grocery orders to help out their cotton money."

Price Increased

The pay for cotton picking was at a low ebb of 35 cents per hundred and did not seem to pull many pickers and today the price has advanced to 75 cents in Arkansas; to 85 cents in farther away regions. Trucks are carrying from Memphis 500 to 600 pickers daily.

A person who can pick as much as 300 pounds daily will average as much as the average WPA worker.

About 725 families are on the rolls of the Memphis Welfare commission of Memphis which has spent more than $10,000 out of its appropriated $25,000, since the WPA payroll slash.

Family Allowance

A family of five or six receive as their week's supply of groceries from the Memphis Welfare commission the following two pounds of navy beans, can of peas, pound of coffee, two cans of hominy, two tall cans of evaporated milk, three cans of meat loaf, half can of molasses, 20 ounces rolled oats, four pounds of rice, two pounds of salt meat, two pounds of lard, two cans of salmon, salt, baking powder, soda and 12 pounds of flour.

SECRETARY WALLACE IS GIVEN REPORT ON NASHVILLE OUTRAGE

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 7.—Advice was received here Wednesday that a report has been filed with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, at Washington, D.C., charging each of a group of seven white men with kidnaping and severely beating George Mayberry, sharecropper, during the preceding weekend, for the purpose of so intimidating him and other tenant farmers that they would make no attempt to participate in the election of an AAA committee for Noxubee County.

After being forced by his abductors, under the threat of drawn pistols, to accompany them in an automobile to a distant part of the county many miles from his home, and beaten almost into insensibility, Mayberry was warned of even more dire consequences to follow unless he and his family left that part of the state within 24 hours—according to J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, who said Mayberry is a union organizer.

The kidnaping and beating of the farmer was part of a determined effort by planters and other landowners to hand-pick the committee members from among themselves, it was asserted by Butler who filed the report with Secretary Wallace.

Tennessee Planter Uses Hired Labor Instead Of Sharecroppers

BY BEM PRICE

A problem which has for a long time stumped the economic experts is the farm tenant system in the South.

For years there has been a lot of talk about the evils of the system but apparently no one has got around to doing much about it, except in a few isolated cases in Alabama and Tennessee.

Of course, when speaking of the tenant system, this writer is not referring to the man who rents his land for cash and cultivates it as if it were his own, nor the man who receives a salary from an absentee owner for acting as an overseer.

Scare Crop Tenant

By tenant farmer in this article is meant, the farmer who owns neither his house nor his land, but cultivates the land on a share crop basis and whose house rent (and in some cases food and other necessities of life) is deducted from his earnings by the landowner.

Immediately after the War Between the States, the tenant farm system was probably the only one that would work. Cash with which to pay wages was a scarce commodity in the South, therefore the land owner had to resort to the tenant system to get his land into production.

(The preceding paragraph is, of course, a masterpiece of understatement. There were a multiple of causes which led to the tenant system, not the least of which was the abrupt transition from a slave economy. However, if any attempt were made to delve into the wide-spread ramifications of the tenant system here, this would cease to be an article and become a book.)

Under a one crop system, tenant farming was ideal so long as the tenant was not exploited—which he soon was.

Since the experts were obviously stumped it was up to the practical farmer—the man in the field—to do something about it and it has been done.

In Montgomery County, Tenn., there lives an 80-year-old man by the name of I. R. Peterson, who has been farming successfully for 50 years on the same land, who has done something about it.

Peterson has long practiced diversified farming—which has had a great deal to do with the absence of tenants on his farm and which is beginning to cause an absence of tenants on the farms of others nearby.

Not so many years ago Peterson was using tenant labor as was everybody else in the community. Eight tenant families resided on his 950-acre farm.

Employed Hired Labor

Peterson is a business man and he came to the conclusion, he recently told a number of Alabama esulted in increased employment in his district.

Where he had been using entire families to work the fields, including the children, Peterson hired men to take the place of the families. Now these men as heads of families did all the work and the rest of their families could devote their energies to improving their lot. The children had more time to go to school.

Thus Peterson not only gave more men work, but he raised the standard of living among the former tenants—and made money for himself.

Of course, Peterson was able to accomplish this by his practice of diversified farming which gave him more available cash than the farmer who depended solely on tobacco (or cotton) alone for income.

Since Peterson has met with success in his experiment, other farmers are beginning to follow suit. Perhaps in the not so distant future the tenant system in Montgomery County will disappear altogether.